Course Syllabus
THEA 305: Introduction to Lighting Design
Fall 2015

Instructor: Calvin Anderson
E-mail: coanderson@wesleyan.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment Only
Class Meeting Time: Fridays 1:00pm-4:00pm.
   Location: TST115 and CFA Studio Theater

Course Objective: This course is intended to provide students with a basic knowledge of the theatrical lighting design process. It will focus on theatrical lighting equipment, history and technology, the design process, paperwork and plot reading, lighting production and lighting vocabulary. The course will seek to enhance students’ understanding of lighting through both lecture and practical experiences, and learn the skills to critically evaluate theater and, specifically lighting design.

Required Materials

Textbooks:
Designing With Light (6th Edition), by J Michael Gillette
The Dramatic Imagination, by Robert Edmund Jones

Vectorworks Spotlight 2015 Student Edition- Free to Download
Lightwright Student Edition- Free to Download

A Scale Rule (with ¼” and ½”), drafting paper (24” wide), tracing paper (18-24” wide), masking tape or drafting dots, a 45º triangle, a straight edge, a protractor, drafting pencils

Rosco, Lee and Gam Gel Books (Available in Class)

EVALUATION: Final grades will be determined by the following:
   Class Assignments and Presentations: 34%
   Class Attendance and Participation: 14%
   Homework: 25%
   Quizzes and Tests: 22%
   Final Presentation 5%
   Final Exam: 10%

Attendance: The workshop/demonstration nature of this course demands regular attendance. More than two missed classes will result in a failure for the course.

Class Assignments and Presentations: The weekly assignments are designed as independent projects, which will focus on the week’s topic. Each assignment will be researched, completed and presented to the class for critique. The last assignment may be done as a group.

Additionally, students will be required to research lighting designers, chosen from a list, and present their findings to the class. We will assign presentations on a weekly basis. The students researching a particular designer will become the class “experts” and will be expected to answer questions about the design process, past productions, or other pertinent information. Students may present using handouts, videos, etc, and should be about 5-8 minutes in length.

Lighting Journals: Students will create a lighting journal over the course of the semester. Each week, the students must take a picture of some specific lighting that they have seen out in the world. They will be asked to figure out how to recreate this lighting in a theatrical setting. Additionally, the students will be assigned a photo of specific lighting and figure out how to recreate this lighting for a theatrical setting.
Performance Responses: Students are required, during the semester, to attend three productions on campus. Students will write response papers focusing on lighting topics that we will discuss in class. If a student is unable to attend a particular performance due to schedule conflict, contact me and we will find another production to review. Papers should be two pages in length, double-spaced, 12 point font with 1” margins. Either Times New Roman or Arial fonts are acceptable. Papers must be submitted in person or to Moodle by the beginning of class on the dates listed.

MAKE-UPS & LATE WORK: Make-up exams will be given for extreme circumstances only and will require a note from a person with authority (coach, doctor etc.). If I have not heard from you within one week of a missed exam, your right to make it up is forfeited. Papers turned in after the class it is due in will drop a letter grade each subsequent day it is late.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: It is the policy of Wesleyan University to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students, however, are responsible for registering with Disabilities Services, in addition to making requests known to me in a timely manner. If you require accommodations in this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made. The procedures for registering with Disabilities Services can be found here: http://www.wesleyan.edu/deans/disability-students.html.

A HOPEFULLY UNNECESSARY NOTE ABOUT CHEATING: Don’t do it. Don’t help anyone else do it. If I find that you have plagiarized or cheated you will receive a failing grade for the assignment. ***Any time that you use somebody’s ideas or words you MUST give credit. Failure to do so is plagiarism. You must provide a citation whenever you paraphrase, quote, or borrow an idea. *** I encourage you to read more about cheating and its consequences in the Student Code: http://www.wesleyan.edu/studentaffairs/studenthandbook/standardsregulations/plagiarism.html

MISCELLANEOUS:
You are encouraged to take advantage of instructor office hours for help with coursework or anything else connected with the course and your progress.

I may make any reasonable changes to this syllabus and course outlines.

Course Schedule
Homework is due on the date listed.

WK 1: **Sept. 11, 2015**: Introductions
- Discuss syllabus
- Course aims and structure
- Lighting Journal Overview
- Brief History of Stage Lighting

WK 2: **Sept. 18, 2015**: Functions of Stage Lighting
- Qualities of Stage Lighting
- Production Team & their roles
- The Critical Eye

  **Reading due: Gillette Ch. 1, 2 & 13**

WK 3: **Sept. 25, 2015**: Electricity
- Dimming and Control
- Physics of Light
- Lighting Instrumentation

  **Reading due: Gillette Ch. 3, 4, 5 & 6**
WK 4: Oct. 2, 2015: Control Continued… (This class will meet in the Studio Theater)
  • Cue Writing
  • Color Theory
  • Color vs. Light
  • Additive and Subtractive Color Mixing
  • How the Eye sees Color
  • Color Media
  • What does color mean?

  Reading due: Gillette Ch. 6 & 8
  Show #1 Response Paper Due (Dorrance Dance)

WK 5: Oct. 9, 2015: Design Approaches
  • Photometrics
  • Creating Systems

  Reading Due: Gillette Ch. 14

WK 6: Oct. 16, 2015: Drafting
  • Hand Drafting
  • Drafting Standards
  • Computer Drafting

  Reading Due: Gillette Ch. 15

WK 7: Oct. 23, 2015: Mid Term Exam
  • Light Plot and Paperwork
  • Channel Hookup
  • Instrument Schedule
  • Magic Sheet

  Show #2 Response Paper Due (Thesis Dance)

WK 8: Oct. 30, 2015: Designing with Light
  • Controllable properties of stage light.
  • Direction
  • Color
  • Intensity
  • Quality

  Reading Due: Gillette Ch. 11 & 16

WK 9: Nov. 6, 2015: Functions of Stage light
  • Mood
  • Focus

  Script Analysis
  Designing to Music
  Discuss Cueing Exercise Presentations

  Reading Due: Gillette Ch. 12/ Jones Ch. 1 & 4
WK 10: Nov. 13, 2015: Designing for Dance, Theater, and Live Music

Reading Due: Jones Ch. 5 & 6

WK 11: Nov. 20, 2015: GUEST SPEAKER- Judith Daitsman

   Technical Rehearsals
   Working with the Design Team
   Cueing

Reading Due: Gillette Ch. 17/ Jones Ch. 2 & 3
Show #3 Response Paper Due (Faculty Dance)

WK 13: Dec. 11, 2015: CFT Cueing Exercise Presentations (This class will meet in the Studio Theater)
   Review for Final Exam

   Lighting Journals Due

WK 14: Week of Dec. 14: Final Exam