

**Design for the Theater  
THEA332 Spring 2011****3 Credit Hours**

Note: Syllabus dates and assignments may change. Keep notes about updates as assigned.

**Instructor: Anne H. Berry**

**Contact information**

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Office Hours: T/TH, 8:30–10:30 a.m. in VA 13A (or by appointment)

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**Semester Overview**

This course is intended to provide students with a comprehensive view of the various facets of theater design—including set, lighting, costume and sound design—as well as help students develop conceptual and practical skills/competencies in these areas.

The first half of the semester will largely focus on design elements and principles, concept-building exercises, text analysis and research. The second half of the semester, which will expand on the components covered during the first eight weeks, will focus more heavily on practical applications such as drafting, model building, creating lighting plots, etc.

**Course Texts:**

- *Theatrical Design and Production: An Introduction to Scene Design and Construction, Lighting, Sound, Costume, and Makeup* by J. Michael Gillette
- *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare
- *Marisol* by José Rivera
- *Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare

Additional resources and reading materials will be accessible via Moodle.

**Grading**

Individual project grades are based on a variety of criteria including concept, developmental processes, presentation, craftsmanship and meeting project deadlines.

Final semester grades will be determined based on the following components:

- 5% General preparedness
- 10% Class participation
- 35% Sketchbooks and in-class exercises
- 50% Assignments and projects

**Sketchbooks**

Students are required to maintain sketchbooks for specific assignments as well as to help document process development. The sketchbooks should be comprised of students' drawings and studies, but may also include notes, journal entries, inspiration and any other resources that aid creative development. Students are free to organize their books according to personal preference.

**Materials**

Along with sketchbooks, students should keep general art supplies on hand (pencils, markers, paints, drawing paper, etc.). Additional materials will be announced as needed.

**Moodle**

Assignments and resources will be posted via Moodle, so students will be expected to visit the course site on a regular basis. Grades will also be posted on Moodle.

**Design for the Theater  
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Attendance is mandatory. This course, which is a collaborative effort on the part of both the instructor and students, involves discussions, critiques and exercises that require class participation. Consequently, unexcused absences and continually arriving late and leaving early will negatively affect a student's final grade at the end of the semester.

Illness, family emergencies or pre-approved activities related to another class, such as class trips, are considered excused absences and will not impact a student's grade. (Please notify me ahead of time if you will be missing class.)

**Late Assignments**

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on their specified due dates. Any work turned in ten minutes after class has started is considered late and will be lowered one letter grade. Projects that have not been handed in by the end of the class period (on the day they are due) will not be given a grade.

**E-mail Policy**

I am more than happy to address questions or concerns via e-mail. Please be aware, however, that I will respond to messages sent after 5 p.m. (Monday-Thursday) the following day. Likewise, I will respond to messages sent Friday-Sunday the following Monday.

If you would like to meet with me in person, please stop by during my office hours or schedule a meeting time.

**Classroom Ethos**

The classroom is meant to be a safe environment where students are free to express their thoughts and opinions without being disparaged. Criticism is an important aspect of constructive, artistic discussion, but feedback should be respectfully given and received. Anything less has the potential to disrupt the spirit of collaborative learning and may negatively impact a student's semester grade.

**Electronic Devices**

As a general rule, electronic devices—including cell phones, PDAs and iPods—must be turned off or silenced and out of sight during class.

**Plagiarism**

Papers you submit in this course will be checked for plagiarized material copied from the web, other student papers, and selected on-line databases. Cases of plagiarism are reported to the Associate Dean. Penalties for plagiarism are listed in the college catalog and range from redoing the assignment to dismissal from the college.

**Statement Regarding Disability Accommodations**

Goshen College wants to help all students be as academically successful as possible. If you have a disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor or Director of the Academic Resource and Writing Center, Lois Martin, early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. In order to receive accommodations, documentation concerning your disability must be on file with the Academic Resource and Writing Center, GL113, x7576, [lmartin@goshen.edu](mailto:lmartin@goshen.edu). All information will be held in the strictest confidence.

The Academic Resource and Writing Center offers tutoring and writing assistance for all students. For further information please see [www.goshen.edu/studentlife/arwc/](http://www.goshen.edu/studentlife/arwc/).

## Design for the Theater THEA332 Spring 2011

## 3 Credit Hours

### Core Competencies

- Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of basic design principles
- Students will be able to work collaboratively
- Students will be able to analyze written plays/texts
- Students will be able to work in and experience all areas of theater design
- Students will be able to work with dimension and scale
- Students will be able to develop and apply practical theater skills  
(See “technical and practical skills” handout for details)

### Course Calendar (tentative)

Week 01	Introduction to the course and overview of the semester
Week 02	Design elements and principles; 2 Word Project
Over the course of weeks 3-7, each student will develop an artistic concept for <i>Hamlet</i> by William Shakespeare that includes set, costume/make-up, lighting and sound design components.	
Week 03	Text analysis and research; begin working with <i>Hamlet</i>
Week 04	<i>Hamlet</i> ; narrative storytelling (understanding literal aspects as well as the “poetry” of a play)
Week 05	<i>Hamlet</i> ; set design
Week 06	<i>Hamlet</i> ; figure drawing and costume design
Week 07	<i>Hamlet</i> ; lighting and sound design (guest speaker)
Week 08	MID-TERM BREAK
The second half of the semester, students will work as a team to develop a comprehensive creative concept that will apply to set, costume, lighting and sound design components for <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> by William Shakespeare. An emphasis on technical abilities will provide opportunities for students to delve more deeply into specific areas of design and hone their skills. In addition, students will work individually on creative concept development for <i>Marisol</i> by José Rivera.	
Week 09	Begin working with <i>Much Ado</i> and <i>Marisol</i>
Week 10-13	Continue working with <i>Much Ado</i> and <i>Marisol</i>
Week 14	Begin consolidating semester work into PDFs for portfolios and Umble Center display
Week 15	Finalize <i>Much Ado</i> and <i>Marisol</i> projects
Week 16	FINAL: Present collaborative project, display semester work in Umble Center

### Campus Events

During the semester, students are required to attend at least **three** theater productions on campus including one senior theater recital:

#### Winter Mainstage

*Translations* by Brian Friel, directed by Tamera Izlar  
Feb. 11-13, 18-19; Friday & Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 3 p.m.

#### Senior Theater Recital

Adriel Santiago, Friday, Mar. 11 at 8 p.m.

#### Senior Theater Recital

Jacob Landis-Eigsti, Short Film Collection, Friday, Mar. 25 at 8 p.m.

#### Spring Mainstage

*Dido and Aeneas* & *The Old Maid and the Thief*, directed by Deb Brubaker & Scott Hochstetler  
Apr. 8-10, 16-17; Friday & Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 3 p.m.

Students will receive one free ticket to attend the mainstage plays. Senior recitals are free.