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Fall 9-1-2018

# THTR 107A.03: Theatre Production I - Lighting

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*University of Montana, Missoula*

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**THTR 107/207307 – SPRING 2018**  
**THEATRE PRODUCTION I/II/III: LIGHT SHOP PARTV 131**  
**Section 3: M/W 2:00-4:50pm**  
**Section 6: T/R 2:00-4:50pm**

**Instructor:**

Alan Hanson  
School of Theatre & Dance  
PARTV 193  
(406) 243-2879  
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Office hours: T/Th 12:30 – 2:00 or by appointment

*Assisted by the Light Shop Staff*

**Class Objectives:**

- The ability to efficiently, knowledgeably and safely perform tasks in a timely manner in order to ensure the technical success of the production.
- The ability to understand and function in the role of stage electrician for theatre and dance.
- The ability to understand and appreciate the importance of technical theatre in the performing arts.
- The ability to understand and appreciate the hierarchy of theatre.
- An understanding and implementation of safety practices and equipment maintenance.
- Understand and practice the proper usage and application of power cable, color media, safety cables, gobos and lighting control consoles.
- Understand how to SAFELY operate the rigging system including the fly rail and weight loading.

**Course Description:**

This course will enable you to get the hands-on experience as a stage electrician. Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to be a deck electrician for MOST theatrical productions. Attendance to all show hangs, focuses and strikes is **MANDATORY!** Failure to attend a class or work call will result in a lack of hours and subsequently result in a lower class average. We do have a lot of work to do during normal shop hours; however, the vital work calls happen on the weekend. The weekend calls are the actual show hang/focus and strike of each show that we have. There is no way you can make up hours unless an absence has been previously arranged with the shop manager. This does not warrant missing regularly scheduled class times and work calls. **Attendance is required on all calls that you have been assigned to.**

**Grading:**

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Show Hang Calls-       | 500 Points        |
| Show Focus Calls-      | 500 Points        |
| Show Strike Calls-     | 400 Points        |
| Class Attendance-      | 300 Points        |
| Teamwork and attitude- | <u>400 Points</u> |
| Total-                 | 2100 Points       |

## Dress Appropriately

This is a working class and you must be dressed for safety.

-Closed Toe and Heel Shoes: Sandals and Flip-Flops are TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE!  
You WILL be sent home to change.

## Required Tools:

-8" Crescent Wrench: An electrician's most important tool. Buy one immediately.

-Tool Tie-off: Falling tools can kill. Any tool overhead **MUST** be tied off. Anyone working in the grid or catwalks must empty their pockets before going up. **Bring nothing into an overhead space except your tools.** Tie-line is NOT a rated or acceptable means of tethering your tools. Examples of acceptable tethers/leashes are:

- <https://www.rei.com/product/823498/black-diamond-slinger-ice-axe-leash>
- <http://a.co/d/5Hn2Qx3>
- <http://a.co/d/7xckuJw>

Work gloves (optional, but highly recommended)

Hard hats (Provided by University)

## Recommended Texts:

This is a *hands-on, learn by working* class. No texts are required but the following texts are recommended for further study and review if you would like to explore the field further.

-Shelley, Louis Steven. *A Practical Guide to Stage Lighting*

-Mobsby, Nick. *Practical DMX*

-Carter, Paul. *The Backstage Handbook*

**\*Disclaimer: Syllabus is subject to change. All dates, times and locations are tentative. Please contact the shop manager should you have any questions or concerns.**

## Term Schedule: Fall 2018

**\*All Call times are TENTATIVE as of 8/27. Final call times will be announced as we get closer to the actual events.**

| Date                                               | Production                | Task       | Venue   | Call Time<br>[TENTATIVE] | Who   |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|---------|--------------------------|-------|
| Sat Sept 15 <sup>th</sup>                          | <i>Summer &amp; Smoke</i> | Hang       | Masquer | 8:45am-Done              | ALL   |
| Sat Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup>                          | <i>Summer &amp; Smoke</i> | Focus      | Masquer | 8:45am-Done              | ALL   |
| Sun Oct 14 <sup>th</sup>                           | <i>Summer &amp; Smoke</i> | Strike     | Masquer | 8:45am-Done              | ALL   |
| Mon Oct 15 <sup>th</sup> -Fri Oct 20 <sup>th</sup> | <i>Dance Up Close</i>     | Hang/Focus | Masquer | Shop Hours               | CLASS |
| Sat Oct 20 <sup>th</sup>                           | <i>Dance Up Close</i>     | Focus      | Masquer | TBD As Necessary         | TBD*  |
| Sat Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup>                            | <i>White Christmas</i>    | Hang       | Montana | 8:45am-Done              | ALL   |
| Sat Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup>                            | <i>Dance Up Close</i>     | Strike     | Masquer | 9:00 pm                  | TBD*  |
| Sat Nov 10 <sup>th</sup>                           | <i>White Christmas</i>    | Focus      | Montana | 8:45am-Done              | ALL   |
| Sun Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup>                            | <i>White Christmas</i>    | Strike     | Montana | 5pm-Done                 | ALL   |

**Early is on time, on time is LATE and late is unacceptable!** You should arrive early and give yourself enough time to put away personal items and get ready to work. If you show up impaired or unprepared to any class or work call you will be sent home and lose those hours.

## Light Shop Protocol

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes because they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.

For safety reasons, the use of headphones/earbuds or any listening to music during shop hours (including hangs, focuses and strikes) **IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED**. The number one cause of injuries in the theatre is someone not paying attention to their surroundings. On the occasions when the duties are safe enough to warrant it (e.g. sorting gel), music may be listened to **ONLY WITH THE SHOP MANAGER'S PERMISSION**.

When working overhead (e.g. in the Genie lift, up a ladder, on a catwalk, etc.) you are to announce to the people on the deck that you are working and the people below are to acknowledge by saying "Thank you working."

If you are overhead and drop **ANYTHING** (gel frame, crescent wrench, lighting fixture, etc.) you are to yell **"HEADS"** as loudly as you can so people have a chance to get away.

## Injuries

If you are hurt or injured ***in any way*** (no matter how minor), let the Light Shop manager know **immediately**. If the manager is not in the vicinity then inform the nearest Light Shop staff member. We will determine the seriousness of the injury and will decide on what actions to take accordingly.

Due to safety considerations, at **no** point during a student's time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should non-enrolled persons be guests of that student **without my consent**. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student's grade.

As stated before, attendance in class, hangs, focuses and strikes is **MANDATORY**. It is your responsibility to let me know if you can't be here. If you have to be absent for any reason, you must notify the instructor ***in writing*** (i.e. email) **before** the absence. **NOTIFYING A CLASSMATE TO TELL ME YOU WILL BE ABSENT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE** and will result in an unexcused absence.

It is important to be on time for class. However, since the light shop is also an office and holds other classes, do not arrive any earlier than 10 minutes before the class' scheduled start time and please leave as soon as class is dismissed.

## **Academic Misconduct, Student Conduct Code and other policies**

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at [http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student\\_conduct.php](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php).

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance *Student Handbook*. The *Handbook* is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/About/handbook.php>.

*Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana Disability Services for Students (DSS). “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://life.umt.edu/dss/>.*