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THTR 107A.03: Theatre Production I - Lighting

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THTR 107A-03 Theatre Production 1 - Lighting

Fall 2022 – 3 Credits

PARTV 131 (The Light Shop) and other spaces

Final Exam Period – Wednesday, May 11th 1-3:10 PM

The University of Montana, School of Theatre and Dance

Mike Post

PARTV 193 - (406) 243-4481

mike.post@umontana.edu

Office Hours: 12:00-1:50 Tuesday and Thursday (Zoom or in person)

Additional Zoom hours by appointment.

Please note that I am often around the department in a shop or a theatre. I'm not hard to find...

Shop Supervisors: Peter Fedock, Aurora Watkins, Terry Jorgensen

Lighting, Sound and now Projection are integral elements of design for live theatre. They have specific equipment, skills and procedures to execute properly. In this class you will begin to learn the equipment, and gain the skills in Electrics to work in the theatre.

Course Schedule:

The class will meet regularly Monday, Wednesday, 2:00-4:50PM. In addition to that, the class will have additional calls schedule as below:

Friday, September 30 th and Sunday October 2 nd	Focus <i>Cabaret</i>
Sunday, October 23 rd	Strike <i>Cabaret</i>
Friday, October 28 th and Saturday October 29 th	Focus <i>Call of the Wild</i>
Sunday, October 20 th	Strike <i>Call of the Wild</i>

Students are required to participate in two of the Focus call days and both strikes. There will be a signup first come, first serve for the focus calls so we can make sure we spread the available hands around.

There may be other opportunities throughout the semester on a more voluntary basis.

Textbook:

There is no textbook required for this class. Students may find the Backstage Handbook a useful reference for this class.

Students will, however, be required to own a Crescent Wrench. These can be purchased at various hardware stores. There are many sizes, but the most common and useful is a standard 8" crescent wrench.

It is also recommended that students own a pair of work gloves. Working with electrics can occasionally lead to rough and hot surfaces and edges and gloves will afford some protection.

Students need to bring their equipment with them for a work call and take it away when they are done. We don't have any storage available in the Light Shop. There are, however, lockers available to use free of charge. Check the Student Handbook for details.

Outcomes:

- Gain skills to work as a theatre electrician through practical experience.
- Learn the technology and equipment for electrics and sound
- Learn proper safety procedures and awareness for working in a theatre
- Gain an appreciation for the how electrics and sound contribute to productions
- Learn the technology used to craft light, sound and projection as it is used in theatrical storytelling.

Grading and Assessment:

This course is a laboratory for working on productions. Some time will be spent training throughout the semester, but the core learning will be in practical application of that training. Students will be assigned tasks and successful completion of those tasks will be the tool for assessment. Students who are not full engaged in the work as part of the class; not arriving dressed appropriately, leaving the room without checking in, not participating in tasks, excessively talking instead of working, will lose credit for the day.

To that end, attendance is mandatory and is the primary means of grading. Should students miss a class, they can make up the time either during the other section's regular meeting time, or additional time at one of the outside calls at the instructor's discretion.

Exceptions will be made to the above policy for students who are in isolation due to Covid 19 or Monkeypox.

Trained Skills and Knowledge:

Some of this is covered in Stagecraft so this may be a review for many. We may not cover all of this, but we'll get through a lot.

Orientation

Learning the ways around the theatre, the names of electric hanging positions, ways of egress in case of safety issues.

Paperwork

Light plots, hookups, how to know what you're doing.

Equipment

Lighting instruments, power cabling, data cables.

Accessories

Gels, gobos, frosts, scrollers, barn doors

Hanging, Circuiting and Focus

Proper ways to hang equipment, circuit and focus – about 90% of the job.

Tricky Hangs

Rigging practices and gear such as pipes, cheeseboroughs, rotalocks.

Working the Lines

Procedures for running line sets, loading and unloading weight.

Maintenance

How to clean equipment, how to fix cables and other basic wiring, bench focusing, how to troubleshoot problems.

Data Signals

Data cables, DMX addressing, other data.

Soldering

Skills in making electrical connections. Useful to repair data cables.

Comm Gear

Communications systems and how to hook them up.

Sound Equipment

The basics of audio gear. Microphones, mixers, speakers and cables

Hookups for Audio

How you get sound around a theatre.

Class Policies:

Especially now due to COVID-19, students must adhere to policies designed to ensure their safety while in class. Classes are intended to be engaging and fun, but safety is the primary concern. Please help me to keep you safe.

Arrival

This is a class involving practical application of skills. To that end, students must arrive ready to work. Durable clothing that conforms to the body and appropriate footwear (no open toe shoes) are required. Students will arrive on time to check in and be assigned tasks for the day by myself or the Shop Supervisor.

During Class

Students will be required to work in the theatre spaces and must maintain proper safety practices in the space. You should have fun, but you shouldn't let that fun place you or anyone else in a dangerous situation. Students need to be attentive and aware of their surroundings. One break of 10 minutes will be taken approximately halfway through the class at the supervisor's discretion.

End of Class

Fifteen minutes before the end of the class, students will be required to find an appropriate stopping point for their task to allow time to clean up and put away their tools and unused equipment. Students will be dismissed by either myself or the supervisor.

From UM President Seth Bodnar:

The wide availability of safe, effective vaccines to combat COVID-19 means that we are able to continue full in-person learning again this semester. The Office of the President urges every member of the UM Family to get vaccinated (and receive a booster shot) if you haven't done so already. Vaccination provides the best means of protecting yourself – and others in our UM Family – from the risk of COVID-19.

Please visit <https://www.umt.edu/curry-health-center/corona-virus.php> for the latest health/safety information, as well as campus communications and plans about the global health pandemic.

University and School Policies

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

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 www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/default.php.

School of Theatre and Dance Policies

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 <https://www.umt.edu/theatre-dance/handbook.php>.

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes as 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.

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.

From the EO/AA Office

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office for Disability Equality (ODE). If you think you may have a disability affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with ODE, please visit them in Aber Hall. I will work with you and ODE to provide an appropriate modification.