

# Advanced Project in Design/Technology

THEA 4523-181, CRN 12628

**Course Description:** The purpose of the course is to allow the advanced theatre student to do directed research and/or creative projects related to theatre productions or to extend their knowledge/training in specific areas. Possibilities include, but are not limited to, the scholarly analysis of theatre productions produced by either the MSU Theatre or by off-campus amateur or professional companies, or major performance/design responsibilities for MSU Theatre productions. The student must have the consent of the Chair of the Theatre Department to enroll in the course, which may be repeated once for elective credit.

**Class Time:** TBD

**Class Location:** Fain Fine Arts, B123

**Instructor:** Eric A. Koger

**Office Phone:** 940-397-4781

**Email:** Eric.Koger@msutexas.edu

**Office Location:** Fain Fine Arts, B123

**Office Hours:** 11am-12pm MTWRF. In general, stopping by is an option but does not guarantee availability. Send an email to ensure a specific time. If I am not in my office, I may be in one of the two theatre spaces or in the scene shop.

## Disclaimer

The information provided within this syllabus may be subject to change. Always assume that the syllabus is correct unless the instructor has made a formal amendment.

## Course Objectives

This course will assist you in developing and demonstrating:

1. an understanding of theatre architecture and features
  - a. Knowledge of the development of theatre
2. proper use of theatrical vocabulary
  - a. Theoretical/conceptual knowledge and application
  - b. Employability
3. a firm knowledge of shop safety and theatre construction
  - a. Theoretical/conceptual knowledge and application
  - b. Employability
  - c. Safety knowledge and practice
  - d. Professionalism

## Course Requirements

1. A theatre faculty member must agree to supervise the student's work.
2. A specific topic or project must be defined in consultation with the faculty member.

**By accepting this syllabus, you are indicating that  
you understand and accept all the policies listed herein.**

3. A contract must be established and agreed to by the student and faculty member at the beginning of the semester. The contract will include all requirements and the system for evaluation.
4. Proposed performance or design projects for an MSU Theatre production must have the consent of the director for that production.

**Link to the form can be found here:**

<https://msutexas.edu/academics/finearts/theatre/course-listings.php>

**Cell Phones and Other Recording Devices**

Cell phones must be...

1. Silenced
2. Put away completely out of sight
3. Not looked at until after class

If at any point your cell phone is NOT put away and silenced, you will be asked to leave for the remainder of the day. This will result in an absence.

The use of cell phones and other recording or electronic devices is strictly prohibited during class. The instructor may direct, from time to time, on the possible use of cell phones for legitimate class reasons. Recording the class is prohibited, unless it is part of a reasonable accommodation under ADA, or by obtaining written consent by the instructor.

**Computer and Tablet Usage**

Often electronic devices provide distraction during class. The use of electronic devices during class is prohibited unless specifically mentioned otherwise. Note taking should be accomplished with a writing utensil and paper. Always be prepared with the proper note taking materials when in class.

**Dress Code**

Be aware that we may be getting dirty during class or participating in activities that require movement. Dress appropriately. Be aware of all Shop Safety requirements.

**Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory. You are responsible for any information that you miss due to absenteeism. Attendance is taken at the beginning of class. Excessive lateness may count as an absence and will be determined by the instructor. Excessive absenteeism during the course can also weigh negatively on attendance. This would include leaving class early, being asked to leave for any reason, or prolonged absence during the class time.

Unavoidable absence – Jury duty, death in the family, etc. You must send notification by email to the instructor explaining the situation prior to missing the class. Be sure to include your name, class period (day/time) and your situation.

Late assignments will not be accepted. Quizzes missed due to absenteeism cannot be made up.

Feeling sick and opting not to attend class will be a normal absence. For that absence to be excused, an official doctor's note must be submitted within 3 days of the absence. Doctor's notes cannot retroactively be utilized beyond 3 days.

**Conduct Statement**

Classroom behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to benefit from the instruction will result in the instructor's removing the disruptive student(s) from the class.

**Academic Dishonesty Statement**

Plagiarism is (1) the use of source material of other persons (either published or unpublished, including the Internet) without following the accepted techniques of giving credit or (2) the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given. If a student in the class is caught plagiarizing, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. The Student Creed developed and adopted by the MSU Student Government reinforces the discouragement of plagiarism and other unethical behaviors. The first statement of the Creed reads, "As an MSU student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else to do so." Plagiarism is lying, cheating, and stealing.

**ChatGPT and AI**

AI Writing tools are not permitted for any stage or phase of work in this class. If you use these tools, your actions would be considered academically dishonest and treated as plagiarism.

**Student Privacy Statement**

In accordance with Federal Privacy Laws a student's personal information is protected. As an instructor it is unlawful for me to share your personal information (including grades) with anyone unless I have written consent. This means I will not be able to discuss your grades with parents. If you have questions about your grades or have forgotten the grading policy for the course, please schedule a visit during office hours.

**Disability Support Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center, 397-4140.

**Campus Carry**

Facts about campus carry can be found at <https://msutexas.edu/campus-carry/>  
Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law.