



Technical Theatre I: Introduction to Technical Theatre

Mr. White, Instructor

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Course Overview

This course provides students with **safety training** for working with equipment used in the theater, as well as hands-on experience in one or all of the following areas: stage lighting, sound design, set construction, stage properties, costuming, and makeup.

Technical Theatre Defined

Technical theatre describes the creation and execution of those aspects of theatre which are beyond performance, including the creation of the physical environment, sound elements, and special effects. Though many people use the term "theatre" to refer to the script, acting, and directing, the technical aspects of theatre are at least equally important in most productions, and it is common to have many more unseen people "behind the scenes" than there are performers on stage (wordiq.com).

Technical theatre includes:

- Stage lighting
- Set construction and design
- Sound design and technology
- Stage management
- Costume construction and design
- Props construction and design
- Makeup design and application
- Special Effects/theatre
- Running crew

Course Objective

Our objective is to learn the basics of theatre terminology and to obtain the hands-on skills to properly execute the basic theatre production. You will come from this course a better problem solver, carpenter, team player, and leader.

Course Description

Introduction to Technical Theatre (Tech Theatre I) will introduce the first-year or beginning technician to the diverse elements of stagecraft and theatrical production

mentioned above. This is an experiential class – *students should expect to build, paint, climb ladders, lift things and handle power tools in this class.*

General Course Requirements

- I. Maintain a 3 ring BINDER and bring it to class daily. The following should be in your binder at all times.
 - * Loose Leaf Paper
 - * Daily Objective Section
 - * Question of the Day section
 - * Notes/Vocabulary Section
 - * Handouts SectionFor supplies, please bring...
 - * 12” Ruler
 - * Standard #2 Pencils
 - * Closed toe shoes (*if these are not worn, then the student will not be allowed to participate in the day’s activities. The grade will also reflect this failure to participate.*)
 - * OPTIONAL – You may want to invest in a clipboard for ease of “on-your-feet” note-taking.
- II. **Model Set-** Design and build a model set.
- III. **Set Workshop-** Students will build and paint a set for *Les Miserables*
- IV. **Painting Projects-** Explore all of the different faux painting techniques of theatre.
- V. **Scene Analysis** – Read, evaluate and cue one (1) scene from a play. Mr. White must approve your chosen scene/play before reading, evaluating and cueing. You may not use a play you have read or are reading in another class. This will be a Stage Manager’s script with blocking, notes, and all technical cues listed (Lights, sound, set movement, and special effects).
- VI. **Lights and Sound Design:** Students will analyze *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* and create a lighting and sound design for this show.
- VII. **Costume and Make-Up Design:** Students will create a costume and make-up plot for *Alice in Wonderland*
- VIII. **History Test:** A history of technical theatre
- IX. **In Class Projects:** Students will explore many other in-class projects for the different elements of technical theatre.

Student Expectations

The single-most important part of this class will be your ability to contribute to a safe and professional learning environment. Due to the nature of the work we will be doing with power tools, lifting, and climbing, it is ESSENTIAL that all students follow the rules, guidelines, and expectations set forth and agreed upon. Therefore, all students will be required to fill out a safety and best practices contract. Once received, a copy of the contract will be provided to you and kept in your binder at all times. Students who fail to complete a safety contract or fail to keep a copy in their binders will not be able to participate in the class fully which may potentially affect final grades. Intentional failure to follow the policies and safety guidelines set forth will, under no circumstances, be tolerated.

Here are some core safety rules to live by while in this course...

1. Listen carefully as directions are given, and then follow them immediately – you may ask questions later.
2. Absolutely no running or horseplay
3. Do not handle or touch theater equipment or tools without being properly trained on them – afterwards, only with permission
4. Catwalks and other theater areas may only be accessed under the supervision and guidance of Mr. White – stay in designated areas unless instructed otherwise
5. Be aware of your surroundings, your peers, and your instructions at all times!

Grading Policy:

Professional and Positive Behavior Expectations: There will be a formal grade that will reflect your behavior in: respect, responsibility, and trustworthiness.

Formative Assessments: You will be graded on a series of small activities done in class that will allow you to build up to the summative assessments (the final projects for each unit).

Summative Assessment: The Final projects for each unit.

Final: You pick which technical aspect of theatre you liked the best and you create a piece to fit into that project, you also put together a portfolio and the finished product is presented to the class.

The grading scale will be as follows:

| | |
|---------|---|
| 90-100% | A |
| 80-89% | B |
| 70-79% | C |
| 60-69% | D |

Formative Assessments: 35%

Summative Assessments: 35%

Character Report Card: 10%

Final: 20%

I have thoroughly read the syllabus for the Technical Theatre Course

I, _____, will honor and respect the guidelines set in the course syllabus. If I do not follow the guidelines, I understand that I will face certain consequences.

Student Printed Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

I, _____, have read through the syllabus and will continually support my student in the class. I also understand the consequences that will be made if my student does not follow guidelines.

Parent Printed Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Home phone # - _____

Cell phone # - _____

Email address - _____