

Technical Theater 2022-2023

Course Start 09/01/2022/End Date06/06/2023.

Instructor: Robert Holter

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Official Course-related Website: <https://hhs.helenaschools.org/teachers/rholtter/>

Office Hours/Availability to Students: M- Friday 2:33 – 3:25 Daily or by appointment – In the little theater. For an appointment – email rholtter@helenaschools.org

Course Location/Days/Times: Monday through Friday HHS either 0nd or 6th period.

Materials needed:

1. A portfolio style three ring binder dedicated to this class with dividers for each section: 1. Bell Ringers. 2. Notes. 3. Handouts and projects. 4. Scripts
2. PPE including:
 - a. Safety goggles.
 - b. Hearing protection.
 - c. Gloves with leather palms.

Course Description:

6730 Technical Theater- Stagecraft Elective: 9 – 12Full Year – 1 Credit

Technical theater offers students interested in the “Back stage men and women in Black” area of theater production. Students will learn production techniques common to stage, film, television and related performance areas. The class offers instruction in the fundamentals of stage carpentry, production, lighting, sound and sets. The technical theater class constructs, lights and produces all aspects of Helen High productions, and offers technical support to theatrical events in other schools and the community. Students will be required to have hearing protection, a nail apron and vision protection. Students will be graded on projects, class participation and tests and quizzes over area content. This class can be offered for Vocational Credit.

This syllabus will lay out for you what you will learn, and at approximately in what order you will learn it. The items on this syllabus are sequential, but depending upon the class learning rate may go either slower or faster than scheduled. I have put things in the order they will be covered, and the order will usually not change.

The text for this class is J. Michael Gillette’s Theatrical Design and Production 3rd edition. You will note that if there is a chapter from the book assigned for each unit that the pages will be assigned in the header of the week. There will also be supplemental texts and handouts.

You will be assessed on the following:

1. Complete all homework assignments (on syllabus), and quizzes – at least one show will require after school time!
2. Participate all builds
3. Participate in all classroom activities
4. Homework (reading assignments and questions)

5. Quizzes
6. Set construction for shows
7. Clean up routines

All tasks accomplished receive points that are cumulative, and grades are weighted on the following scale:

A = 94 -100%	C = 74-76%
A-= 90-93%	C-= 70-73%
B+= 87-89	D+= 67-69%
B = 84-86%	D = 64-66%
B-= 83-80%	D-= 60-63%
C+= 77-79	F =59% or less

I will round-up to two decimal places, so an 89.45 will round up to an 89.5, which rounds up to a 90 (A minus).

Course Goals:

1. Communicate effectively: The student will read with critical comprehension; write clearly and coherently; and practice effective speaking and listening skills.
2. *Apply critical analysis and problem-solving skills:* The student will use acquired skills or methods to recognize, analyze, adapt, and apply critical thinking to solve problems and make informed decisions.
Apply information/technology literacy across disciplines: The student will learn to locate needed information, managing and evaluating the extracted information and using it critically and ethically; *and* the student will use appropriate technology to access, manage, integrate, or create information, and/or use technology to effectively accomplish a given task.
3. Will begin to develop the ability to produce set pieces, lighting, costuming, sound scapes etc. that support a script and production.
4. *Develop an understanding for diversity and global awareness:* The student will learn to recognize and value individual, group and cultural differences from, and within, local, national and global perspectives and contexts.
5. *Develop practical skills through applied disciplinary learning:* The student will integrate knowledge from academic disciplines including math, Vocational skills, and applied programs of study into progressively more complex problems, projects, and standards of performance.
6. Will understand the fundamentals of the technical theater process and begin cultivating a personal approach to this job.
7. Will understand the craftsmanship and professionalism of the technical process.
8. Will have explored the technicians relationship between him or herself and the text, the performance space, other performers and the audience.
9. Will understand the steps involved in crafting technical elements and how that craft exists among other elements.
10. Will be able to have a prepared resume and portfolio for job application or placement in a university program.

School rules are always in effect in this room as are the MBI expectations of “Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Involved, Be a Graduate.”

Please note that we are in a theater and that the space demands several extra notes for safety. The basic rules are as follows:

1. Never touch anything you have not been instructed to work with – you may die from “playing around with the cool gadgets.”
2. No food or drink in the theater except as cleared by Mr. Holter or Mr. Sanford

3. You have two ears and one mouth for a reason – it is twice as important to hear, as it is to speak so listen and do not carry on side conversations!
4. Do not be in any area you have not been cleared to be in.
5. Report any and all mishaps immediately. We have chemicals and equipment that will be unsafe if you have an accident and do not report it. Someone might be killed if you “keep quiet.”

As an online student at Achieve Virtual, communication is a bit different than in a face-to-face setting. We pride ourselves in providing several opportunities for social interactions, but the difference is that most communication is via written text in an online environment. Because this means you are missing body language cues and immediate feedback from your “listener,” it is very important to understand some common rules for good online etiquette. This ensures that the message you intend to convey is received correctly.

1. Be respectful. While it is easier to say hurtful or disrespectful things without standing face-to-face with someone, it is important to remember that your classmates and teachers are real people who are affected by the words you say and write. It is essential to keep in mind the feelings and opinions of others, even if they differ from your own. ***If you wouldn't say it to someone's face, don't say it online either.***

2. Be aware of strong language, all caps, and exclamation points. It is easy for written text to be misread and misunderstood. Have you ever sent a text message with good intent but your recipient thought you were being rude? If so, then you've experienced this firsthand. By being cognizant of strong language, you can identify potential confusions before sending messages. ***Tip: Read everything out loud before you send it.***

3. Be careful with humor and sarcasm. Certainly, you shouldn't avoid being funny. We love to see your personality shine through in online classes. Many of our teachers are exceptionally funny too. But like mentioned in Rule #2, make sure that it is clear you are being funny and not being rude. Emoticons and smileys can be helpful when conveying humor or sarcasm so that it is read correctly. Just remember to keep the smiley faces away from academic papers. 😊

4. Yes, grammar and spelling matter. While texting, textspeak can be great for your friends. In an educational setting (even online) however, keep it formal. Your written communication should be professional and reflect proper writing style. Save written shortcuts and less than stellar grammar for Snapchat if you must, but follow grammar rules for school.

5. Cite your sources. Whenever you are sharing an idea that originated from someone else (even if it is not word for word), it is good practice to cite that source. This applies to discussion forums too. If you read a great thought in your text, share it, but be sure you let your audience know where you saw it first.

6. Don't post or share (even privately) inappropriate material. Enough said there. Nothing is truly private online.

7. Be forgiving. Remember that not everyone will know these rules before posting. Try to be understanding of others when they struggle with written communication. It is very different than simply talking to a person face-to-face.

Rough Class Time Line

1st Semester

Week 1 – Intro to the space and each other. Introduction to theater spaces

Week 2 - Gillette Chapter chapters 1 +3 (p133). The theater organization and spaces.

Shop safety including:

- a. PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) requirements.
- b. General Shop Safety and procedures.
- c. Fire Safety – fire extinguisher use.
- d. Tool Safety and Tool use.

Week 3 - Basic scenic units including:

- a. Flats types and common flat construction procedures.
- b. Flat attachment, battening, jacklegs fastening and moving safety.
- c. Reading plans and creating a cut list for common flat styles.
- d. Platform types and common construction – legging and attachments.
- e. Scenery joining techniques – battens bolts screws and Dutchmen!
- f. Specialty scenery and its construction

Week 4+5 +6

- a. Flat covering and scum coating (sizing).
- b. Basic painting technique demonstration and practical – base coats and texturing styles
- b. Detail painting and lining demonstration and practical.
- c. Care of paintbrushes and paint demonstration and practical.
- d. Journal reading three due Friday of week 6.
- e. finish building all flats

Week 7 - Gillette Chapter Construction will continue but Tuesday and Thursday we will take notes covering the following:

- a. Basic lighting safety – electrical and heat.
- b. $V=VXA$ equation
- c. Introduction to lighting instruments – basic terminology.
- d. Specific instrument types – Fresnel – PAR – ERS – LED units – Moving Light types.
- e. Light hang procedure.
- f. Lighting project groups assigned.

Week 8 Construction will continue but Tuesday and Thursday we will take notes covering the following:

- a. Lighting systems schematic
- b. Basic DMX protocol and use
- c. Light Plot reading
- d. Lighting Areas
- e. Light focus procedures.
- f. Light board operation.
- g. Basic troubleshooting.
- h. Assigned to Light project group – start listening to music – hanging, focusing and cuing light projects.

Week 9 Construction will continue but Tuesday and Thursday we will take notes covering the following:

- a. Basic color theory
- b. How the eye perceives color.
- b. Paint (subtractive system).
- c. Light (additive system).
- d. Journal Four due this Friday.
- f. Rough Portfolio due today – all notes and dummy page of final show information, and rough draft of resume and job exploration topic due with portfolio.

Semester Test Week – review Monday, test is on appointed day for this class. You may use one 3X5 note card only. If there is time you will be allowed to work on the group lighting project.

2nd Semester week 1 - Fly system basics: Lecture Monday thorough Wed. covering: Thursday quiz over fly system basics, Friday light projects group work.

- a. Basic theory of fly systems.
- b. Fly system terms.
- c. Fly system types.
- d. Hemp house.
- e. Counterweight.
- f. Chain motors.
- g. Mechanical (winch).
- h. Safety
- i. Required PPE for fly systems in use.
- j. Basic fly system operation instruction.
- k. View Helena Middle School Auditorium fly systems.

2nd Semester week 2 - build 2nd Show scenery and props. You will have the following due on Friday:

- l. Rough Resume
- m. Final dummy Job application due.
- n. Rough portfolio page with show 1 on it.

2nd Semester week 3 - build 2nd Show scenery and props on Monday Wednesday and Friday – Tuesday and Thursday lecture on Sound System Basics including the following:

- o. Basic sound theory.
- p. Hearing, hearing theory and hearing protection including exposure levels.
- q. Sound system block diagrams.
- r. What the actual equipment looks like
- s. Basic patching.
- t. Basic recording technique.
- u. Basic troubleshooting

2nd Semester week 4. – Study for Mid term Tuesday and take test on Thursday - Build 2nd show Monday Wednesday and Friday and group work on projects.

- v. 1st journal reading due this semester
- w. Sound project work
- x. light project shows / work.

2nd Semester week 5 - Build for a show? – individuals to do sound projects see finished light projects as they become ready.

2nd Semester week 6 - Build 2nd show – individual groups to do sound projects see finished light projects as per schedule - notes on Tuesday and Thursday on props. Read Gillette chapter 11.

- a. basic props research.
- b. Props organization.
- c. Prop construction.
- d. Prop security.
- e. Prop building assignments – due week 8 of semester.

2nd Semester week 7 – Strike 2nd show and finish props assignment

2nd Semester week 8 Seniors take final this week!

- a. Review for finals (Tues. and Wed)
- b. Seniors take final wed
- c. Finish props building and turn in!
- d. Put shop to bed and all storage cleaned and set to bed for the summer.

2nd Semester week 9 – Finals week.

- a. Monday final review.
- b. Tuesday through Thursday – finals

Disclaimer regarding changes to syllabus:

This syllabus is subject to change as deemed necessary by the instructor to fulfill the changing needs of the class.