

**Basic Theatre Practice 1
DRAM 1330 Section 40603
Spring 2008 Syllabus**

Instructor: Lorrella Cobb

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Office Hours: 11am – 12pm T-TH

Course

Description: This section of Basic Theatre Practice explores basic tools and skills for the production of live theatre. We will be concentrating on the areas of carpentry, lighting and sound. You will be introduced to these aspects through book readings, class discussion, practical lab work, tours of Houston theatre spaces and production of college events.

Text: Scene Design and Stage Lighting, W.Oren Parker, R Craig Wolf, Dick Block, Eighth Edition

Class Policies: Cell Phones, Pagers, and other noise making devices must be turned to vibrate, and may not be answered during lectures or tours.

Appropriate clothing must be worn during all assignments.

1. Wear comfortable tennis shoes or boots. No open toed or backless shoes.
2. Wear comfortable clothes that fit and can get dirty or damaged. No Skirts.
3. Long hair must be tied back.
4. Do not wear any dangling jewelry.

Failure to comply with clothing restrictions will result in the student being removed from that class and being counted as absent until they return in appropriate clothing.

No Guests, including children are allowed in class or on tours.

All shop safety rules must be followed (eye protection, correct usage of the tools, no horse play,...). Failure to adhere to shop safety rules can result in removal from this course.

Supply List: Each Student will supply:

- Safety Goggles (By 3/24 or before working in shop)
- 6 or 8 inch adjustable wrench (By 2/4 or before working in shop)
- Black shirt and pants (before working on any show)
- Dark, close-toed shoes (before working on any show)
- Any supplies necessary for note taking or recording lectures
- Fare/ parking cost necessary to go on field trips.

Grades:

	Points	Percentage
Exam 1	60	12
Exam 2	65	13
Quizzes/ Theatre Projects	150	30
Paper on <i>Whose Life...</i>	50	10
Paper on <i>I Love You, You're...</i>	50	10
Tech Assignment	125	25
TOTAL	500	100

POINTS	GRADE
450-500	A
400-449	B
350-399	C
300-349	D
0-299	F

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given at the beginning of each class period, the quiz will be over after 10-minutes or when the last student who was present at the beginning of class has finished the quiz.

Papers: Each student will see *Whose Life is It Anyway?* and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* produced by HCC Drama Central as part of the class. They will then write a one-page, single or double spaced paper in smaller than 16-point type, paper on the technical aspects they observed, or their experience being a technician on the show. A Ticket and program must be attached to the paper.

Tech Assignment: By the second meeting of class each student will pick a technical assignment to complete in the semester. It will count for 25% of their grade. You will be expected to attend all rehearsals, performances, and specific work calls during the time specified. **You will receive 125 points unless you are assessed the following penalties:**

1. Arriving late or leaving early from a rehearsal, show call, or work call.
 - a. W/O Contacting Instructor 10pts
 - b. After Contacting Instructor 5pts

(Not signing in by call time is the same as being late W/O Contact, no matter who has seen you, or asked you to do something; **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE COUNTED ON TIME BY SIGNING IN BEFORE CALL TIME**)
2. Not attending a complete rehearsal.
 - a. W/O Approval from or Contacting Instructor 10pts
 - b. W/O Approval but W/ Contacting Instructor 5pts
 - c. W/ Approval from Instructor
(Early Conflict, Extreme Illness, Death in the Family) 0pts
3. Not attending a complete work call.
 - a. W/O Approval from or Contacting Instructor 10pts
 - b. W/O Approval but W/ Contacting Instructor 5pts
 - c. W/ Approval from Instructor
(Early Conflict, Extreme Illness, Death in the Family) 0pts
4. Not attending a complete show call.
 - a. W/O Approval from or Contacting Instructor 50pts
 - b. W/O Approval but W/ Contacting Instructor 25pts
 - c. W/ Approval from Instructor
(Extreme Illness, Death in the Family) 0pts

5. Inappropriate dress during Dress Rehearsals or Show Calls 5pts
(Clothing should fit and be black or dark matte pants, shirt and shoes without any large light logos. Shirts can be worn inside out, or small logos can be black-gaff taped over. Shoes must be closed toed with a back.)
6. Failure to Follow Instructions or Unprofessionalism. Varies per Offense 5-100pts
(Leaving during a call without telling production personnel, Excessive talking backstage, Disrupting Rehearsals, Not performing duties) 100 pts will only be docked if others were put in danger or the offense is repeated after original docking.

At the end of the assignment, the student will be given a report with the points you received and a list of any offenses and their dates.

Choices for Tech Assignments: (Dates & Times Subject to Change)

Whose Life is it Anyway? Rehearsals T-TH 7-10pm and Sat 12-4pm

Performances 2/21-23 & 2/28-3/1 @8pm

Light Board Operator 2/12 – 3/1

Sound Board Operator 2/12 – 3/1

Running Crew X2 2/12 – 3/1

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change Rehearsals T-F 7-10pm and Sat 1-5.

Performances 4/24-26 @7:30pm and 4/27 @2:30pm

Light Board Operator 4/15 – 27 + 5hrs Shop Work

Running Crew X 2 4/15 – 27 + 5hrs Shop Work

Central Repertory Dance Company. Rehearsal times varies from 12-10pm.

Performances 4/11 7:30pm and 4/12 10am

Running Crew 4/8 – 4/12 + 10hrs Shop Work

IF You Can Not Do Any Of The Above Events:

25 Hrs Shop Work.

Hours must be scheduled with the Shop Foreman or Theatre Manager and completed between 1/14 and 5/2. Shop Hours are T-TH 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm. Four (4) Shop Hours can also be earned for working each day of the HCCS events at Heinen Theatre. All time must be entered on a time sheet and initialed by a Heinen Staff Member by the following Monday or it will not count.

EVENT	DATE	TIME	SPACE
Saturdays @ Central: Opera to Go!	January 26	10am	Heinen Theatre
Premier of "Texas Zydeco"	February 5	7pm	Heinen Theatre
Saturdays @ Central: Express Children's Theatre	February 23	10am	Heinen Theatre
New Music Series: Anthony Turner	February 26	7:30pm	Heinen Theatre
HCC Jazz Central: Spring Jazz 1	March 6	7:30pm	Heinen Theatre
Student Services: Women's History Month	March 26	10am	Heinen Theatre
New Music Series: Billy Martin	March 26	7:30pm	Heinen Theatre
Music Faculty Rehearsal	April 1-2	10am	Heinen Theatre
Saturdays @ Central: Central Rep Dance	April 12	10am	Heinen Theatre
HCCS Jazz Central: Spring Jazzfest	April 17	7:30pm	Heinen Theatre
Spring Music Honors Recital	April 29	7:30pm	Heinen Theatre
Spring Fashion Show	May 1-2	7pm	Heinen Theatre

Extra Credit: Up to 50 points can be earned in extra credit by working on HCCS events in the Heinen, or working in the Heinen Shop, when such work is available. Points will be awarded at the rate of 2.5pts/hour of satisfactory work. All extra credit work must be scheduled with the instructor, placed on a time sheet and be verified by the theatre manager or shop foreman by the following Monday. The last day to complete Extra Credit is 5/2.

Accommodations: Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office at the respective college at the beginning of each semester. Faculty are authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office.

Insurance: The Fine Arts Department at Central College strongly recommends that all HCCS students carry some form of medical insurance to cover illness and injury, both on and off campus. Information regarding low-cost health insurance for students is available in the Fine Arts office. Under Texas state statute, HCCS is immune to liability in the event of accident or injury.

Scholastic Dishonesty Policy: Houston Community defines “scholastic dishonesty” as: cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. Penalties for academic dishonesty at HCCS include, but are not limited to, “0” on test or assignment in question, “W” in the course, or “F” in the course.

Academic Advisement: Academic advisement concerning specific Fine Arts courses and degree plans for Drama is available to Central College students during the academic semesters. Please sign up in the Fine Arts office, FAC 101, to speak to a full time instructor in your area of interest.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend classes regularly. Students are responsible for material covered during their absences, and it is the student’s responsibility to consult with instructors for makeup assignments before the absence. Instructors check class attendance daily. Although it is the responsibility of the student to drop a course for non-attendance, the instructor has the authority to drop a student for excessive absences. A student may be dropped from a course for absenteeism after the student has accumulated absences in excess of 12.5 percent of the hours of instruction (including lecture and laboratory time). For a three credit-hour lecture class meeting four hours per week (64 hours of instruction), a student may be dropped after eight hours of absences. NOTE: IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO WITHDRAW OFFICIALLY FROM A COURSE. Administrative drops are at the discretion of the instructor. Failure of a student to withdraw officially could result in the student receiving a grade of "F" in the course. The deadline to drop a class is April 3, 2008 @4:30pm. A “I” or incomplete will only be given when extreme emergency causes a student to miss the final.

Schedule and Assignments Subject to Change.

WEEK	DATE	ACTIVITY	SUBJECT	TOOLS/ TERMS	CHAPTERS	ASSIGNMENT DUE	
1	1/14		<u>Cover Syllabus, Introductions, Where am I and Why am I Here? AND Tour of Heinen</u> What Does That Do?	Parts of the Theatre and Stage Directions	Chapter 4: The Stage and Its Equipment	QUIZ 1	
2	1/21 WALK	MLK DAY	<u>Theatre Elements in the Commercial Industry Project: How Can I Use This In Real Life?</u>				
3	1/28		<u>Technical Theatre History, Is a Periaktoi a dinosaur? AND Who came up with this stuff?</u>	Greek, Roman, Medieval, Renaissance, Restoration, and Twentieth Century Theatre Architecture and Technology	Chapter 3: A Brief History of Theatre Architecture and Stage Technology	QUIZ 2 TECI Project TECH ASSIGNMENT CHOICE	
4	2/4		<u>Electricity and Wiring: Why do all the Christmas lights go out when only one is burnt out? AND Lighting Systems: If There is No Switch, How do I turn it on, and focus The Light?</u>		Chapter 13: Electrical Theory and Practice Chapter 14: Lighting Production	QUIZ 3	
5	2/11	Focus Lighting Plot for <i>Whose Life</i>	<u>Lighting Instruments and Accessories: How do you say Fresnel? AND You mean Gobo isn't just a Fraggie?</u>	Lighting Instrument Types and Parts and Accessories	Chapter 14: Lighting Production	QUIZ 4	
6	2/16 WALK	Presidents Day					
7	2/25		<u>REVIEW</u> : Is this Going to be on the Exam? AND <u>Hobby Center Tour: Is this were they did Mamma Mia</u>			QUIZ 5 Hobby Center Tour	
10	3/17 CLASS MOVED TO 3/1 AT 8PM	CLASS DATE MOVED	<u>STRIKE <i>Whose Life is it Anyway?</i> If I Have to Write a Paper on This, Should I See It? And Why Does it Come Down Faster Than It Went Up?</u>		3/17 CLASS MOVED TO 3/1 AT 8PM	CLASS DATE MOVED	
8	3/3		<u>EXAM 1: What Do I Know? Alley Theatre Production Center Tour: Is this where they do <i>Christmas Carol</i>?</u>			EXAM 1 Alley Project	
9	3/11 WALK	Spring Break					
11	3/24		<u>Tools: How do I cut That?</u>	Stock Lumber, Measuring Tools, Wood-cutting Tools, Wood Shaping Tools, Wood Boring Tools	Chapter 8: Tools and Materials	<i>Whose Life...</i> Paper	
12	3/31		<u>Carpentry: How Do I Measure, Cut, and Build with Wood? AND Scenery: Is That Wall Real?</u>	Woodworking, Flats, Soft Scenery, Three-Dimensional Scenery	Chapter 9: Scenic Production Techniques	QUIZ 6	
13	4/7		<u>Scenic Painting: Can I make it look good from 40 feet away?</u>	Materials, Preparation, Painting Techniques	Chapter 10: Scene Painting	QUIZ 7	
14	4/14		<u>Sound: Why Are My Ears Ringing?</u>	Sound Basics, Sound Systems	Chapter 19: Sound Design and Technology	QUIZ 8 Scaling and Painting Project Sketch	
15	4/21		<u>REVIEW 2: Is this going to be on the exam? AND <u>Wortham Center HGO Tour: Who's wig is that anyway?</u></u>			QUIZ 9 Wortham Project	

16	4/28 CLASS MOVED TO 4/27 AT 2:30PM	<i>I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change</i>	<u>STRIKE I Love You, You're Perfect Now Change: If I Have to Write a Paper on This, Should I See It? And Why Does it Come Down Faster Than It Went Up? PART 2</u>			
FINAL	5/5		<u>EXAM 2: What Do I Know? PART 2 Optional Assignment Backstage Tour with "The Wedding Singer"</u>			EXAM 2 I Love,... Paper Scaling and Painting Project

Useful links and information:

<http://learning.cc.hccs.edu/Members/lcobb> This site has all handouts for this class. **Students are responsible for printing out any handout posted by the Friday before class.** This page also will have a copy of the syllabus if you lose this one.

MyLife <http://mylife.hccs.edu/> – is a site with news and blogs about our fine arts events, including videos and interviews about art and artists. Students can post critiques and students can respond to each others ideas.

www.centrafinearts.info

Our departmental web site, always under construction. For students it's a quick way to check our calendar of events. Includes ticket information, maps, etc.

On that Central Fine Arts home page you'll see this link:

[**ArtsLine! Sign Up For Our Fine Arts Newsletters!**](#)

This link lets you subscribe to our ArtsLine newsletters. Students, faculty, the public, everyone – please sign up. We send out regular newsletters, with calendars of events, and more detailed press releases as events come up.

Student e-mail. The new email system is Microsoft Exchange. You may access your account from anywhere, at anytime using a web browser such as Netscape, Internet Explorer or Firefox. The URL to access the system is <http://webmail.hccs.edu>

- **Your login id and email address are the same as before.**
- **Your password has been reset to your date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy).
For example: The password for February 8th, 1982 would be '02/08/1982'.**
- This new student email system will, in no way, affect or replace the email that students use within their WebCT class(es).