

# Construction Techniques

Course # THEA 4950-03; Spring 2013

M/W 8am-10:45am, Scene Shop, West Campus

~TENTATIVE COURSE SYLLABUS~

Instructor: Frani Geiger

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Office Hours: Wednesday: 11am-12pm

(at Scene shop)

Thursday: 1pm-2pm

(at BBT office)

## Course Description:

This course is a hands on, laboratory class aimed at exploring more advanced theatrical carpentry and craft skills. The basics of scenic and prop construction will be reviewed, to allow more advanced techniques to be examined. Areas to be covered, dependent on time, through discussion, demonstration, and exercise will include:

- Shop tool and safety basics
- Simple theatrical carpentry
- Furniture repair
- Paper Mache/ alternative craft materials
- Decorative woodworking
- Basic mig welding
- Advanced prop construction techniques
- Electrical wiring

## Objectives:

Students will be able build simple theatrical and household furniture, complete simple non-structural welding tasks, create theatrical and household props using multimedia, and leave with the skills to create lamps from every day objects. Students will also demonstrate the ability to critically analyze technical sketches and drawings to make informed aesthetic and logistical decisions.

## Textbook/ Course Materials:

While no formal text is required for the class, students will be expected to supply samples from individual research as they apply to specific projects. Some readings may be assigned in class (all will be available online, or via in-class handouts)

Students will also be responsible for the following “tools of the trade”:

- Safety goggles
- Earplugs
- Shop clothes (long sleeve shirt, pants, shop shoes)
- Work gloves (quality working gloves)
- Tape measure

## Attendance Policy:

Attendance is essential as many of the steps in the major projects build upon the ones before. If you miss a class or two, it is possible to fall way behind. You may miss 5 classes, no excuses needed. If you are absent for more than 5 classes, you cannot pass this class. There are no additional penalties for absences taken on midterm or final exam days- you may take a make-up exam outside of class time within 1 week

of the missed exam (to be scheduled with me). Long term absences due to illness may be excused, with no penalty towards your 5 absences, with a signed doctors note. The bulk of the grade for this course will be based on attendance and effort. Successful completion of the assignments is required for a passing grade in this course.

**Attendance/ participation counts for 40% of your grade.**

Quizzes/ Tests:

There will be up to 5 small pop quizzes during the semester: short simple questions that relate to the work we have done. Do not stress- if you show up and do the work, you will be fine.

**QUIZZES CAN NOT BE MADE UP IF MISSED.**

**Quizzes count for 10% of your grade.**

There will be one mid-term test, and one final exam. Each of these, just like the quizzes, will be based on the work we have done in class. Again, if you show up and do the work, you will be fine. **Midterm counts for 15% of your grade. Final counts for 20% of your grade.**

**Mid Term Exam: Tuesday March 18th: 8am-10:15am**

**Final Exam: Tuesday April 30th: 8am-10:15am**

Grading:

Attendance/ participation: 40%

Final Exam: 20%

Midterm Exam: 15%

Completion of assignments: 15%

Quizzes: 10%

Workload:

The main workload of this class will consist of demonstrations/ exercises in scenic shop techniques with 6-7 major projects due no later than the last day of class. (Suggested completion dates throughout the term will be provided) Though most of the work should be completed in class, it may become necessary to work on projects outside of class in order to complete them according to schedule. Know how to get in touch with Russ to schedule out-of-class time should you need it. **Completion of assignments counts for 15% of your grade**

Schedule:

The projects will be divided into sections, and each section will progress at its own pace, with pause to critique and discuss relevance of the techniques.

January:	Basic shop safety and carpentry Building rehearsal furniture
February:	Alternative materials Decorative woodworking
March:	Furniture repair Wiring theatrical practicals
April:	Advanced prop design/ construction techniques Basic Mig welding

*Additional techniques including paint treatments, loom building/weaving, and kite construction and design will be covered if time allows.*

Important Dates:

**Mid Term Exam: Tuesday March 18th: 8am-10:15am**

## **Final Exam: Tuesday April 30th: 8am-10:15am**

### NOTES:

#### **Religious Observance Policy**

*Students are permitted to miss class in observance of religious holidays and other activities observed by a religious group of which the student is a member without academic penalty. Exercising of one's rights under this policy is subject to the GC Honor Code. Students who miss class in observance of a religious holiday or event are required to make up the coursework missed as a result from the absence. The nature of the make-up assignments and the deadline for completion of such assignments are at the sole discretion of the instructor. Failure to follow the prescribed procedures voids all student rights under this policy.*

#### **Assistance for Student Needs Related to Disability**

*If you have a disability as described by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, you may be eligible to receive accommodations to assist in programmatic and physical accessibility. Disability Services, a unit of the GCSU Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity, can assist you in formulating a reasonable accommodation plan and in providing support in developing appropriate accommodations to ensure equal access to all GCSU programs and facilities. Course requirements will not be waived, but accommodations may assist you in meeting the requirements. For documentation requirements and for additional information, we recommend that you contact Disability Services located in Maxwell Student Union at 478-445-5931 or 478-445-4233.*

#### **Student Opinion Surveys Statement**

*Given the technological sophistication of Georgia College students, the student opinion survey is being delivered through an online process. Your constructive feedback plays an indispensable role in shaping quality education at Georgia College. All responses are completely confidential and your name is not stored with your responses in any way. In addition, instructors will not see any results of the opinion survey until after final grades are submitted to the University. An invitation to complete the online opinion survey is distributed to students near the end of the semester. Your participation in this very important process is greatly appreciated.*

#### **Academic Honesty**

*The integrity of students and their written and oral work is a critical component of the academic process. The submission of another's work as one's own is plagiarism and will be dealt with using the procedures outlined in the GC Catalog. Remember that allowing another student to copy one's own work violates standards of academic integrity.*

#### **Fire Drills**

*Fire drills will be conducted annually. In the event of a fire alarm, students will exit the building in a quick and orderly manner through the nearest exit. Know all 3 exit locations in the shop. If you encounter heavy smoke, crawl on the floor so as to gain fresh air. Assist disabled persons and others if possible without endangering your own life. Assemble for a head count in the loading dock of the shop.*

## Weekly Schedule

**Construction Techniques**

*TENTATIVE/ SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH PACE OF STUDENTS*

## January

*Tuesday*

7<sup>th</sup>: Shop Safety

14<sup>th</sup>: Tools and hardware

**21<sup>st</sup>: NO CLASS (Martin Luther King Day)**

28<sup>th</sup>: Rehearsal furniture

*Thursday*

9<sup>th</sup>: Basic Tools

16<sup>th</sup>: Rehearsal furniture

23<sup>rd</sup>: Rehearsal furniture

30<sup>th</sup>: Rehearsal furniture

## February

*Tuesday*

4<sup>th</sup>: Furniture repair

11<sup>th</sup>: Furniture repair

18<sup>th</sup>: Alternative craft materials

25<sup>th</sup>: Props/ alternative materials

*Thursday*

6<sup>th</sup>: Furniture repair

13<sup>th</sup>: Alternative craft materials

20<sup>th</sup>: Props/ alternative materials

27<sup>th</sup>: Decorative woodworking

## March

*Tuesday*

4<sup>th</sup>: Decorative woodworking

11<sup>th</sup>: Decorative woodworking

**18<sup>th</sup>: Midterm Exam**

**25<sup>th</sup>: NO CLASS SPRING BREAK**

*Thursday*

6<sup>th</sup>: Decorative woodworking

13<sup>th</sup>: Welding Basics

20<sup>th</sup>: Welding

**27<sup>th</sup>: NO CLASS SPRING BREAK**

## April

*Tuesday*

1<sup>st</sup>: Welding

8<sup>th</sup>: Prop construction

15<sup>th</sup>: Food Props

22<sup>nd</sup>: Electrical wiring

29<sup>th</sup>: Review/ re-cap

*Thursday*

3<sup>rd</sup>: Welding

10<sup>th</sup>: Prop construction

17<sup>th</sup>: Sci-fi props

24<sup>th</sup>: Electrical wiring

**Final Exam: Tuesday April 30th: 8am-10:15am**