



**Theatre 253- Stage Lighting
Spring 2021**

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**Avila University
Department of Theatre
School of Performing Arts
College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences**

Office Hours: M: 11-1
W: 1-3
Open Door Policy

Class Meetings: T/R 9:00-10:15

Location: BOR 456, Small Rehearsal Space, or Zoom. Meeting locations will be announced on Canvas.

Required Texts:

- *Designing with Light* by: J. Michael Gillette, 7th Edition, Digital Version

Recommended Texts²:

- *Lighting and the Design Idea*, 2nd Edition by: Linda Essig
- *The Business of Theatrical Design*, 2nd Edition by: James L. Moody

Recommended Materials³:

- 8" Adjustable Crescent Wrench, capable of being attached to the user.
- A headlamp.
- Work Gloves.
- Closed Toe Shoes (are required for work on and above stage).

Course Description: Introduction to the principles and theories of lighting stage productions.

The syllabus is intended to brief the student on expectations for the course. Reading the entire syllabus is essential for comprehension of the professor's expectations. Said policies and expectations are intended to create a productive learning environment for both professor and student.

The course instructor may modify the standards and requirements set forth in this syllabus at any time. Notice of such changes will be by announcement in class, and will also be promptly posted and announced on Canvas.

This 3-credit course requires three hours of classroom or direct faculty instruction and between six to nine hours of out of class student work each week for approximately 16 weeks. Out-of-class work may include but is not limited to: required reading, research, written and/or lab assignments, project creation, and studying for quizzes and exams.

¹ Yes, this is really my cell phone. You now have enough knowledge to be dangerous, tread carefully.

² All of the recommended texts are easily accessible via Amazon or other known book sellers. They will immensely assist you in your professional and academic career.

³ All materials are available at either hardware stores and superstores. Tennis shoes are adequate.

Goal: Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to demonstrate higher level understanding of the design and practical elements in lighting design and technology.

Objectives: After taking this course, students should have the following knowledge and skills:

1. Develop a working knowledge of the language of the lighting designer and electrician.
2. Comprehension of the functions and qualities of stage light.
3. Successful application of electrical theory and practice.
4. Familiarity with historical and current lighting fixtures and their properties.
5. Proficiency in programming a lighting console.
6. Communicating and comprehension of the design process.

Method of Assessment: The above objectives will be assessed by the following⁴:

1. Discussion and repetition of proper terminology.
2. Completion of Lab requirements that assess proficiency and retention of information.
3. A variety of assignments to assess proficiency.
4. Thorough review of lighting fixtures.
5. Practical application of information received.
6. Practical application of information through realized designs.

Attendance

The expectation of a professional training program is that students attend all classes. Each class builds off previous material, therefore missing class is not advised. However, the professor recognizes that some absences may be unavoidable.

Students who attend at least 85% of the course meetings will earn their grade as listed in Canvas. Students who miss more than 15% will have their final grade lowered by one letter (A to B, B to C, etc...). Students who miss more than 20% of course meetings for any reason will receive a grade of "F", regardless of course work. This class is currently scheduled to meet 29 times; therefore, more than 4 & 1/3 absences will result in a letter grade deduction. Missing more than 5 & 2/3 classes will result in a grade of "F".

Students assigned to departmental productions that come into conflict with class meetings will not receive an attendance grade for the day (It will be as though the day was cancelled). The absence will not count against you, but because there are fewer class meetings, each one will carry more weight. This also applies to the following department approved conferences: KCACTF, SETC, and USITT.

Arriving late to a class meeting will count as 1/3rd of an absence. Application of this policy is at the discretion of the instructor.

Exceptions to the attendance policy will be so rare as to be considered non-existent.

Students attending class via Zoom are required to enable their camera for the duration of the class. Students with cameras not enabled for class will be counted absent for the day.

***COVID ADDENDUM:** The Attendance policy may be updated for students who cannot attend class due to COVID, or if the course shifts to fully remote instruction.

⁴ The numbers referenced in methods of assessment correlate to the numbers of each specified objective.

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather when Avila University indicates the physical campus is closed, our course will be cancelled during the first event of inclement weather declared by the university. Following the first cancellation, the course will meet via Zoom as though the physical campus were open. When the decision is made to close the campus due to emergency conditions, the professor will inform students of the event. If the university is not closed or delayed, all students are expected to be in class. If I can make it to class, you can make it to class.

Late Work

Late work will be accepted with a 10% penalty until four days have passed. At that point, the work will not be accepted. Exceptions to this policy will be so rare as to be considered non-existent.

Students with major production assignments (Designer, TD, SM, etc...) may request a one-week extension for assignments without incurring a penalty. Students may not request an extension on the final project.

Computers, Tablets, Cell Phones, and things that go “Ping, Ding, Ring, and/or Bing”

The use of cell phones, smart phones, or other mobile communication devices can be disruptive, and are prohibited during class time. In the case of emergencies or other circumstances students should inform the professor prior to the start of class. Those engaging in this form of communication are asked to quietly leave the space, engage in said communication, and then return.

Computers and tablets may be used for note taking purposes and attendance via Zoom only. Please ensure that technology is muted during class time.

Using any device for purposes other than taking notes, being on Zoom, or emergency communication is prohibited. Should the professor catch a student playing games, using social media, texting, etc... the student will be asked to cease. Should the behavior continue, the student will then be asked to leave the class and will be counted absent for the day.

Avila University Student Code of Conduct

As a student attending a Catholic University emphasizing its Catholic Identity, the code of conduct is binding upon every enrolled student. Any effort in this class to undermine the code, especially in areas of plagiarism and harassment will be met with the consequences outlined in the Avila University Student Handbook: <https://catalog.avila.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=145>

Lighting Lab Requirements

Each student will be required to complete five (5) hours of lighting lab work during the semester. Information about available times will be sent via Canvas. Sheets will be available digitally to document hours completed.

Tech/Ed Hours

BFA Design and Theatre Education students are expected to work five (5) hours in each shop (Scenic, Costumes, Paint, Props, Electrics, and Sound). Students will be graded on this aspect of their degree requirement. Students in this course that are not BFA Design students or obtaining a Theatre Education minor may elect to wave the requirements. Students will declare this on the Syllabus Quiz. Sheets will be available digitally to document hours completed.

Hours Sheets

Sheets are available for students to log their hours. Sheets are located in the modules section in Canvas. Students are encouraged to fill them out as soon as the hours are completed. All sheets are due by 5pm on Friday, May 7th.

Extra Credit

An extra credit option may be earned by completing a review of the *Shrek the Musical* on Netflix, *Hamilton* on Disney+, or by working an additional 4 hours of lighting work. Students may only choose one option. Students may earn up to 40 points toward their final grade by completing the assignment. The review criteria is listed in Canvas.

Students who arrive on time to all classes and have zero (0) absences will receive an extra 40 points towards their final grade.

Student Access Services:

Avila University views disability as an important aspect of diversity and is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities to students with documented disabilities (e.g. mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, physical, etc.). If you are a student who has (or may have) a disability, please contact the Student Access Office to engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations in the classroom setting. Students are encouraged to register with the Student Access Office as soon as they begin their coursework but may register at any point during their studies. Accommodations, however, are not provided retroactively. Students may contact the Student Access Office by email (DSO@Avila.edu), telephone (816-501-3666), or by stopping by their office located in the Student Success Center in Hodes—lower level of Carondelet Hall (Building #8). Students may also learn more about the Student Access Office by visiting their website at: <https://www.avila.edu/student-services/disability-services-1>.

Environment Open to Inclusivity and Learning

The professor is committed to the growth and learning of all students in the class. Each person is welcomed regardless of their background. Emphasis with each class is on every member of the class, professor included, learning new ways of doing things. Kindness and positivity will always be met in kind.

Assignments/Grade Breakdown

Syllabus Quiz	25
Avatar Project	75
Play Card	50
Knots	75
Mid-Term Design Presentation	50
Mid-Term Project	150
Final Design Presentation	75
Final Design Project	200
Lab Requirement	100
Tech/Ed Hours	100
Honors Enhancement	100
Total Points Possible	1000

Grading Scale⁵

Letter Grade	Percentile	Points
A	90%-100%	900-1000
B	80%-89%	800-899
C	70%-79%	700-799
D	60%-69%	600-699
F	0.0%-59%	0-599

⁵ The Professor takes into consideration the overall effort of each student when considering to round up decimals. The grade scale also includes the honors enhancement and design tech hours in the calculation. If a student opts out of the honors enhancement and Tech/Ed hours, the overall grade is out of 800 points. If a student opts out of either the honors enhancement or Tech/Ed hours, the overall grade is out of 900 points.

Outline of Class Meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignments/Events</u>
Tuesday 1/26	Introduction to Course, Lighting Production Team, Who's Who	
Thursday 1/28	Lighting Production Team Cont'd. Functions and Qualities of Stage Light	Syllabus Quiz Due by 11:59pm
Tuesday 2/2	<i>Avatar</i> Project	
Thursday 2/4	Control & Capture	Avatar Images Due
Tuesday 2/9	Control & Capture	
Thursday 2/11	Ropes & Knots	
Tuesday 2/16	Present Avatar Projects	Present Avatar Projects
Thursday 2/18	Midterm Intro & Discuss Show	Shows Read, Play Card Due
Tuesday 2/23	Electricity Theory	Knots Due
Thursday 2/25	Electricity Practice	
Thursday 2/26	<i>Servant</i> Opens	
Sunday 2/28	<i>Servant</i> Closes & Strike	
Tuesday 3/2	Reflection/Refraction	
Thursday 3/4	Color	
Tuesday 3/9	Design Presentations	Mid-Term Design Presentations Due
Thursday 3/11	Finish Design Presentations	
Tuesday 3/16	Work in Class Day	
Thursday 3/18	Present Mid Terms	Mid-Term Project Due
Tuesday 3/23	Finish Mid Term Presentations	
Thursday 3/25	Cables, Connectors, Lamps, & Light Sources	
Tuesday 3/30	Instruments	
Thursday-Tuesday 4/1-6	Easter Break, No Class	
Thursday 4/8	Final Project, Plot Layout, & Programming	
Tuesday 4/13	Light Hang & Focus	
Thursday 4/15	Programming Group 1 & 2	Song Selection Due
Tuesday 4/20	Programming Group 3 & 4	
Thursday 4/22	Troubleshooting & Paperwork	
Thursday 4/22	<i>Pippin</i> Opens	
Sunday 4/25	<i>Pippin</i> Close & Strike	
Tuesday 4/27	Design Presentations	Design Presentations Due
Thursday 4/29	Group 1 & 2 Programming	
Tuesday 5/4	Group 3 & 4 Programming	
Thursday 5/6	2 Group Presentations	Final Projects Due Honors Enhancement, Tech/Ed., & Extra Credit Assignment Due by 5pm on 5/7.
Tuesday 5/11	FINAL 8:00-9:50	Class meets to view final 2 projects.