

DANC 205 -- Production Techniques  
State University New York, Potsdam  
MW 9:00-9:50 AM  
Fall 2009

Instructor: Todd P. Canedy    Office: 235 Satterlee Hall, Classroom 300  
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Office Hours: MW 11:00-12:00 or by appointment

***THE SYLLABUS***

The syllabus is the student's contract with the instructor. It defines the course requirements and the grading structure. Students are expected to participate in class exercises, maintain classroom behavior that will not be disruptive to learning, and treat other students with respect. Students are expected to treat the teacher with respect. Students who miss class are required by the university to be personally responsible for making up the missed material and tests.

***COURSE DESCRIPTION***

DANC 205 -- Production Techniques: Dance/Drama/Music (3) Basic skills and procedures in producing theatrical productions, including lighting, costume design and construction, running crew, and set construction. Spring. Gen Ed: AE credit. Cross listed as DRAM 205.

1.000 TO 3.000 Credit Hours

2.000 Lecture hours

1.000 Lab hours

**Levels:** Matriculated Undergraduate, Undergrad Non-Matric

**Schedule Types:** [Lecture](#), [Lab](#) or [Activity](#)

School of Arts and Sciences College  
Theatre and Dance Department

**Course Attributes:**

THE ARTS, AE--Aesthetic-Experiential, Liberal Arts

***REQUIRED TEXTS***

***TECHNICAL THEATRE FOR NON-TECHNICAL PEOPLE***, DREW CAMPBELL  
***American Muse***, Elaine Kuracina

***REQUIRED PERFORMANCES*** All performances, performed in Satterlee and Dunn Hall

***American Muse***, October 23-25<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 8:00pm, matinee on the 25<sup>th</sup> 2:00 pm,

***10 minute Play Festival***, November 19-21<sup>th</sup> 8:00pm, matinee on the 21<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm,

***Fall Opera***, November 12-14<sup>th</sup> 8:00pm, matinee on the 15<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm

***Student's Choreographers Concert***, Dec. 4-6<sup>th</sup> 8:00 pm, matinee on the 6<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm

## ***COURSE OBJECTIVES***

Through lectures, discussions, exercises, projects, text readings, and written critiques, students examine how plays are written and produced, and how these reflect the values of the people and cultures that produce them. During the course of the semester, students have the opportunity to learn and to question the theatrical experience. What goes into the creation of a theatrical event? Who are the participants? What are their roles and duties? Where does theatre and performance come from? How does theatre and performance impact our daily lives? How do theatrical styles differ? How and what do these different styles communicate to an audience? Through the investigation of these and other questions, the student will leave the course with not only an understanding of the theatrical process, but also an understanding of how theatre is a mode of our humanity.

As an Arts and Science General Education course, *PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES* asks students to examine theatre in relation to cultural, historical, aesthetic, social and philosophical contexts that shape their production and reception. Like other Arts and Humanities courses, *PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES* is designed to increase students' reading, listening, and written communication skills, and to develop students' ability to engage in critical thought, carefully considered value judgments, and the process of creative problem solving.

## ***LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR DANCE 205:***

- Through the study of theatre and its practice as a multifaceted art form which has been shaped by technological, political, economic and cultural factors. You will see connections between theatre and other disciplines and develop skills in integrating knowledge from different disciplines.
- You will increase your fluency in verbal and written communication through the close study of the art form. Students will have the opportunity to discuss and write about course materials, readings, and performances of live theatre with an emphasis on understanding, articulating and evaluating the underlying values therein.
- You will develop a better understanding of language, expression (both verbal and non-verbal) and style (realistic and non-realistic forms) and the ways that they influence and reflect cultural and societal values.

## ***COGNITIVE SKILLS FOR DANCE 205:***

- You will increase the breadth of your multicultural perspective through the study of theatre.
- You will develop an understanding of how personal, cultural, and aesthetic values shape your own and others' responses to theatre and performance.
- You will develop the ability to write your critical perceptions of theatre and performance.
- You will develop skills in reading comprehension and interpretation.
- You will develop the ability to identify, analyze and frame questions about issues that pertain to theatre and performance.

## ***COURSE REQUIREMENTS***

### **Final/Group project: (25%)**

Designed to give students an opportunity to explore the roles of various theatre practitioners. Each group will choose one of the plays from the reading list and act as the production team for it. It is your responsibility to procure a copy of the play your group chooses to work with. You will each take a role (producer, designer, actor, etc.), and through analysis come to production decisions regarding design, acting, staging and marketing. In a formal presentation the group presents design renderings and models, stages and performs a scene or monologues, provides a marketing scheme and presents your vision of the play to the class. This project serves as your final exam. The assignment sheet and reading list follow.

### **Mid-term: (15%)**

The midterm will cover the text, lectures and performances up to the date of the exam date. Prior to the test, there will be a review that will cover the material that will be on the test. The exam will not be a test of your memory, however you need to show a working knowledge of the material covered through problem-solving questions and

demonstrations.

## **Scene/Costume/Light Design Projects: (30% combined)**

Designed to give students an opportunity to explore the roles of various theatre practitioners. You will each take the role of designer and through analysis come to production decisions regarding design, acting, staging and marketing. In a formal presentation, you present a design complete with technical drawings, renderings and models that presents your vision of the play to the class. The assignment sheet and reading list follow.

## **Quizzes/Misc/research: (10%)**

The quizzes and misc. section of the course is designed to check on the progress of the student throughout the term. They will be on TBA notification. The format for this section will change according to the demand of the assignment/task.

## **Performance Critiques, Theatre Attendance and Etiquette: (10%)**

As part of this course you are required to attend four university performances. A short written response (3-4 page in length) is due the class period following the closing performance or showing. It is your responsibility to double check times and purchase tickets. Please be respectful of others when attending performances in the theatre. Talking on your cell phone, shifting noisily in your seat, coming in late, leaving early or having whispered conversations are obvious examples of unacceptable behavior in the theatre.

## **Participation and Attendance: (10%)**

Each day the student will be asked to actively participate in classroom activities. These may include improvisation, physical and vocal exercises, group activities and discussions. Every class period the student will earn a grade that will be added for the total participation grade. You will also accrue points by attending class.

In regards to participation, attitude and conduct: please remember that I am here to help you learn. Please do not hesitate to ask questions, or ask for help, in or out of class. (In class is often best, since your classmates may have the same questions or concerns and you will be helping them, too.) Since this course is participatory in nature, it is essential that you complete all homework assignments, come to class prepared to engage in vigorous, critical discussion and invest fully in classroom exercises. As well as being called upon to contribute your ideas each class period you will be asked to move, speak, shout, jump, etc. Please know that everyone feels uncomfortable sometimes, especially in front of large groups. It is your responsibility, as class members to create a safe environment wherein all students feel free to participate and express their ideas, thoughts and opinions.

Additionally, you must put away newspapers, magazines, homework for your next class, remove headphones and **TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES**, pda's, beepers, pagers, etc. **before the start of class. If you ring or beep in class please leave. You will be considered absent for that class period.**

**Attendance Policy:** Faithful and committed attendance is required. Since this course is largely discussion based, your presence in both mind and body is necessary. There is no such thing as an excused or an unexcused absence. There are simply absences.

***Absence Breakdown: 0-2 absences = no penalty, 2-4 absences each absence = 1/2 a letter grade penalty for each absence, 6 absences = a failing grade.*** *\* This breakdown is department wide policy.\**

I will note absences, tardies, early departures, sleeping, phones ringing, etc. = 1 absence. These behaviors will negatively impact the attendance and participation portion of the grade.

## **ASSIGNMENT POLICY:**

Late work may be counted, but full credit will not be given. All assignments must be handed in or performed on due dates as assigned. The following rules apply to timely completion of assignments:

**Any written assignment turned in late will be dropped a full letter grade for each day it is late, including weekends.**

Being unable to find time to meet with collaborators, having a computer or printer problem at the last minute, having a paper or exam in another class, are not legitimate reasons for late presentations or papers. **Plan ahead.** Exceptions or extensions may be negotiated in extreme circumstances but must be worked out in advance of the due date and evidence of progress on the project must be shown.

Absolutely no work of any kind will be accepted after the last class period. There will be no extra credit and there will be no curve.

It is in your best interest to keep all assignments until you have received your final grade. Should a mistake in the calculation of your grade occur, for any reason, you will want to be able to show your work.

### ***ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:***

It is important that you take every opportunity to present your ideas in both class discussion and in written work. It is equally important that the ideas that you present are the work of your sole study and effort. Please understand that plagiarism in any form constitutes academic misconduct (as defined and discussed in the Student Handbook) and is grounds for discipline. Any attempt to submit the work of another person as though it were your own constitutes plagiarism. Furthermore, if you consult research sources and incorporate ideas or text from them, it is expected that you will properly cite and attribute them.

**Cheating:** Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. Fabrication Falsification or invention of any information of citation in an academic exercise.  
Plagiarism Representing the words or ideas of another's as one's own in any academic exercise.  
Facilitating Helping or attempting to help another commit an act of academic dishonesty.

The instructor and students in this course will adhere to the University's general Codes of Conduct defined in the *SUNY Student Handbook*.

### ***DISABILITY POLICY***

In accordance with the University policy, if the student has a documented disability and requires accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, he or she should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester and make this need known.

### ***RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS***

It is the policy of the University to make every reasonable effort allowing students to observe their religious holidays without academic penalty. In such cases, it is the obligation of the student to provide the instructor with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which he or she will be absent. Absence from classes or examinations for religious reasons does not relieve the student of responsibility for completing required work missed. Following the necessary notification, the student should consult with the instructor to determine what appropriate alternative opportunity will be provided, allowing the student to fully complete his or her academic responsibilities.

**SCHEDULE:**  
**Subject to change at the discretion of the instructor**

WEEK	DATE	DAY	TOPIC	PREP/DUE/ASSIGNMENT
1	8/31	M	Introduction/Syllabus	
1	9/2	W	Tour of The Spaces	
2	9/7	M	Seven steps of design process	
2	9/9	W	Tour of The Spaces Part 2, <b>Meet in front of The Snell Theatre</b>	
3	9/14	M	Chapter 1,2	
3	9/16	W	Chapter 3	
4	9/21	M	Chapter 4	
4	9/23	W	Chapter 5	
5	9/28	M	Chapter 6	Carol Franck Lecture
5	9/30	W	Chapter 7	Due: #3 Play Reviews
6	10/5	M	Review for Midterm	
6	10/7	W	<b>Mid Term</b>	
7	10/12	M	<b>FALL BREAK, NO CLASS</b>	
7	10/14	W	Chapter 8	
8	10/19	M	Chapter 9	
8	10/21	W	Chapter 10	
9	10/26	M	Chapter 11	
9	10/28	W	Chapter 12	
10	10/27	M	Chapter 13	
10	10/29	W	Chapter 14	
11	11/2	M	Set Design Lecture	Carol Franck: Still Images/Historical
11	11/4	W	Set Design Workshop	Due: <i>American Muse</i> Critique Still Images/Historical
12	11/9	M	Light Design Lecture	Due: Set Design Project
12	11/11	W	Light Design Workshop	
13	11/16	M	Costume Design Lecture	Due: Light Design Project
13	11/18	W	Costume Design Workshop	Due: Fall Opera Critique
14	11/23	M	Discussion/Critique	Due: <i>10 Minute Play</i> Critique/ Costume Project
14	11/25	W	<b>THANKSGIVING RECESS, NO CLASS</b>	
15	11/30	M	Group Project Intro.	Carol Franck: Library Lobby
15	12/2	W	Group/Production Meeting	
16	12/7	M	Discussion/Critique	Due: Dance Concert Critique
16	12/9	W	Group work	
17	TBA	<b>FINALS WEEK</b> <b>FINAL PRESENTATION</b>		

# ***Grade Sheet***

DANC/DRAM 205 and MUAC 430  
Production Techniques for Dance, Theatre and Music

Name\_\_\_\_\_

## **Homework/Assignments/Tests:**

<i><b>Final</b></i> /Group Project	_____/250
<i><b>Midterm</b></i>	_____/150
Scene Design Project	_____/100
Costume Design Project	_____/100
Light Design Project	_____/100
Participation	_____/100
Quizzes/Misc.	_____/100____(A)____(B)____(C)____(D)
Performance Critiques	_____/25
	_____/25
	_____/25
	_____/25
Total:	_____/1000

## **KEY:**

1000 – 950 = A, 4.0	950-900 = A-, 3.7	
899-870 = B+, 3.3	870-830 = B, 3.0	830-800 = B- 2.7
799-770 = C+, 2.3	770-730 = C, 2.0	730-700 = C- 1.7
699-670 = D+, 1.3	670-630 = D, 1.0	630-600 = D-.7
599 & below = F, 0		