SYLLABUS FOR TECHNICAL DIRECTION/SHOP MAINTENENCE (THEA 6385-2) - SUMMER 2012
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Objectives: Review and expand a range of skills necessary to safely and efficiently manage a high School theatre technical operation. Examine materials usage and planning, basic practical tool usage and scenic construction, theatrical rigging, and practical lighting and sound operations.

Learning Outcomes: Students will demonstrate expertise and exercise personal and supervisory safety.


As this is the first time this course has been offered, I want the students to provide input early on in terms of your perceived needs to allow the course to provide necessary training. I am willing to quickly revise this syllabus based on that input.

July 2 – Practical materials planning and usage. Read Holloway Ch. 14 & 15, Carter pp. 120-143, pp 49-74.

July 3 – Scenic construction planning and construction methods. Read Holloway Ch. 18 & 19, Carter pp. 270-279.

July 4 – Construction planning continued. Read Holloway Ch. 20. Begin work on Project 1: Working drawings and materials estimates.


July 10 – Lighting 1: Electrical and dimmer review; theatre systems and troubleshooting; electrical safety. Read Holloway Ch. 6, 7, & 8, Carter Electrics chapter.

July 11 – Lighting 2: Instrumentation review and practical instrument maintenance, hanging, and focusing. Read Holloway Ch. 9. Hang/focus Practicum.


July 16 – Sound 1: Basic theory and systems; mics. Read Holloway Ch 11.


July 18 – Sound 3: Sound control: analog mixers and digital mixing. Demonstrations; QLab Practicum.

July 23 – Practical construction 2 – Bench tool usage and safety. Demonstration; Read Holloway Ch. 17, Carter pp. 36 & 37.


The grading for the course is based entirely upon the successful completion of the practica. Those judged insufficient may be resubmitted for credit.