



Syllabus: Drama Practicum

Course Number: DRAM 1120, 1121, 2120, 2121

Instructor Information

Name: Christopher A. Polson

Office: Humanities Division Office

Telephone: 903-823-3361

E-mail: Christopher.polson@texarkanacollege.edu

Office Hours:

Textbook Information

There is no required text for this course.

Student Learning Outcomes for the Course

1. Engage in the creative process and comprehend the physical and intellectual demands of a theatre artist and technician.
2. Practical application of uses of tools and techniques to visually realize theatrical designs and drawings.
3. Demonstrate the collaborative nature of the theatrical process by working with peers and professionals.

Student Requirements for Completion of the Course and Due Dates

RULES OF THE GAME

Drama Practicum is the backbone of the Drama Program at Texarkana College. It is in this class that the real work of producing professional quality theatre happens -- sets, props, lights, costumes, promotion, etc.

We know that there are some of you who consider yourselves 'Actors', and claim to have no interest or ability in the technical areas. This is an attitude we abhor. It should be your goal to become as fully rounded a theatre practitioner as possible - to understand every aspect of what is required to make the production happen. Even if you never work backstage again, even if you become a great star, it is worth your while to develop an appreciation for Everyone involved in the Creation. Do not set limits on what you will or won't or can or cannot do.

To make an 'A' in this class is very simple. Come to class, do the work (and have a good time doing it -- or at least act like you are having a good time), attend tech weekends (more on this later), work the major production in some performance capacity (onstage or backstage), and **have a positive attitude.**

This semester's major production involving the Department is THE GLASS MENAGERIE (produced as a collaborative production by the Drama Department and The Texarkana Repertory Company.)

'Tech Weekend' is two weekends before the show opens. There is a **MANDATORY** class work call on Saturday (day and night) and Sunday (day and night) of that weekend. Sometimes it is not necessary for us to be here for all of that time - sometimes we literally spend the night.. There will also be various 'Work Saturdays'. Though attendance on these Saturdays is not required, it will be more appreciated and necessary than words can say - though we will not take off from your grade if you don't come, we'll be your friend if you do (and you really want us to be your friend).

For the FALL Production, if you are not an actor in the show you are required to work on the production in some 'performance' capacity (i.e., prop crew, costume crew, light board, sound, box office, ushers, etc.). For people with real-life job conflicts we will work something out -- HOWEVER, NO ONE is excused from Tech Weekend. **Failure to attend ALL of Tech Weekend will result in an automatic 'F' in the class.**

Also -- as we begin and continue various aspects of Set Construction, it is very very easy for the theatre to turn into a pig sty. You must clean up your work area any time you either complete or have to leave a project. All tools must be returned to the cabinet (or where ever they are stored). All paint brushes and equipment must be thoroughly cleaned and properly put away. All safety procedures must be followed -- for example safety glasses **MUST** be worn when operating the saws. **Failure to comply with these rules will result in an automatic 'F' in the class.**

We work very hard in this class -- but don't be daunted by that...we also have a pretty good time (why else would some of these people be taking the class again and again?). This class IS the Drama Department - I'm glad you're here.

Student Assessment

Student Assessment is completely based upon attendance and participation. This is a Practicum course and is totally based upon hands-on experience.

Grading Scale

Grade	
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69

F	59-below
---	----------

Attendance Policy

Each class is worth 4 points out of a possible 100 point total.

Make-up Policy

Missed classes may be made-up by attending weekend workdays (not including tech weekend). Weekend hours count half the rate of regular class – ex: 1 class (1.5 hours) = 3 hours in make-up time.

Academic Integrity Statement

Scholastic dishonesty, involving but not limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion, or falsification of records will make the student liable for disciplinary action after being investigated by the Dean of Students. Proven violations of this nature will result in the student being dropped from the class with an “F”.

This policy applies campus wide, including TC Testing Center, as well as off-campus classroom or lab sites, including dual credit campuses. This information can be found in the Student Handbook at <https://texarkanacollege.edu>.

Disability Act Statement:

Texarkana College complies with all provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and makes reasonable accommodations upon request. Please contact Larry Andrews at 903.823.3283, or go by the Recruitment, Advisement, and Retention Department located in the Administration building for personal assistance.

If you have an accommodation letter from their office indicating that you have a disability which requires academic accommodations, please present it to me so we can discuss the accommodations that you might need for this class. *It is best to request these changes at the beginning if not before the start of class* so there is ample time to make the accommodations..

Financial Aid:

Attention! Dropping this class may affect your funding in a negative way! You could owe money to the college and/or federal government. Please check with the Financial Aid office before making a decision.

