

Staging Media

Tuesdays 1:30 - 2:50
PCA A21

Revised

Spring 2014

Instructor: Larry Shea
Office: PCA 335
ph: 412 - 268 - 7220
Email: lshea@cmu.edu

Course Overview:

Staging Media is a practical, process-oriented class, focused on building the skills to go from a conceptual design to an actual completed show. The course covers 3 major topics; media workflow, media system design and media staging. Through real-world examples, conceptual design projects, and hands-on lab work students will learn the best practices for bringing their designs to life. A great deal of technical information will be covered including; video compression formats, projector optics, cueing software, projection mapping & custom surfaces, media servers both custom and professional, networking and control, live camera systems, and stage rigging for projection systems.

Learning Objectives - By the end of this class, students will have:

- Learned how to design a solution and specify equipment for a project based on a creative idea.
- Developed methods for proper workflow and media management for complex projects.
- Have access to multiple technical resources for researching technical information and equipment specifications and availability.
- Understand video & computer system hardware and communication protocols used in media-theater.
- Been exposed to both low-cost and professional media server systems, and know how to build their own.
- Gained skill with multiple projector/monitor design and implementation.

Course Requirements:

Homework Assignments: (10%)

Premiere Tutorials (10%)

Project #1 Design/Paperwork/Presentation: (25%)

Project #2 Design/Paperwork/Presentation: (25%)

Reading Discussions & Active and informed classroom participation: (30%)

Tuesday January 14th – Research & Planning

LECTURE: The mysteries of Specifying Equipment – web resources

EXAMPLE: Matt Weinstein's Baby Brecht Soapbox

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Study the Lynda Tutorials for Premiere Pro CS6 Essential Training.
Watch and practice along with tutorials #1 – 4 (it's OK to fast forward!)
- Bring in a sample of a theater/event that you would have loved to work on.
What about it excites you?
- Solve this puzzle: A friend is doing a silent meditative dance performance in a gallery and wants to have a 20' wide image on a wall and a 20' wide image on the floor, as the performance space. The room is 32' x 40' rectangle with 22' beamed ceilings. The audience can be on all sides or just in front. He wants to keep the shadows cast to be as small as possible, and the performance space can be anywhere in the room to help this happen. Specify projectors for this, and decide which walls to use/build. Come up with a design for this and provide two different projector packages based on cost. Explain the trade offs in a paragraph a non-technical person can understand.

Revised

Tuesday January 21st – Workflow

- DISCUSSION: Students' favorite events / Projector Puzzle solutions
- LECTURE: What is a good workflow? – rehearsal systems, flexibility, turn-around time
- EXAMPLES: *Company @ PPT/Junket @ Dixon Place* – Workflow & System overview
- READINGS: Russian Experimental Performance & Theater- by Alexander Burry
- ASSIGNMENT:
- Continue Studying the Lynda Tutorials for Premiere Pro CS6 Essential Training. Watch and practice along with tutorials #5 – 16.
 - Redesign the “Go2” Workflow Infographic for a media-theater production. What steps should you add to better represent the theatrical process? You can do this digitally or by hand, whatever is fastest for you.

LAB: Thursday Jan 23rd – Vectorworks Tutorial #1

Tuesday January 28th - Playground- no classes

Tuesday February 4th – Constructivist Stage Design

- REVIEW: Workflow Infographic re-designs
- SCREENING: Aleita Queen of Mars (excerpt) & Victory over the Sun (designs & stills)
- LECTURE: Constructivism vs. Futurism - Machine as metaphor vs. “Machine Aesthetic”
- READINGS: “Geometry & Utopia” (excerpts)- by Mari Laanemets
(for discussion next class) *Collision* - Mina Loy
Victory Over the Sun - Aleksei Kruchenykh
- ASSIGNMENT: “What is a suitable metaphor for contemporary America?”
Answer this question with image research: Bring in images & video.

LAB: Thursday Feb 6th – Vectorworks Tutorial #2

Tuesday February 11th - Workflow – Part 3: Editing – Best Practices

- DISCUSSION: Use of metaphor on the stage/ Student Research Images
- TECH DEMO: Media Management / Editing video loops
- ASSIGNMENT:
- Take the NYC timelapse footage, create 8 “seamless” loops of 30 seconds each and edit them into an interesting sequence. Find two different soundtracks for this video that alter the mood.

LAB: Thursday Feb 13th - Loop editing demo/ workshop

Tuesday February 18th – Workflow – Part 4: Media Software

- REVIEW: Student Loops
- TECHNICAL DEMO - Millumin/Cuelab/Watchout
- ASSIGNMENT:
- Use Millumin to make a show for your dancer friend’s performance from Assignment #1. Design the imagery you have been working with for the floor & wall projections. Create a 6 - minute show, with several “movements.”

LAB: Thursday Feb 20th – Millumin Examples & Demo

Tuesday February 25th - Adding Live & Generative Imagery

REVIEW: Dance Performance Shows – Millumin designs
LIVE CAMERA DEMO: Kevan’s “Nina” TouchDesigner network
TECHNICAL DEMO: Syphon inputs / Using cues , masks & blend modes in Millumin.
ASSIGNMENT:

- Create a Stage design for either Victory Over the Sun or Collision. Focus on multiple projections/ video walls etc., ideas about stage automation are great but beyond the scope of this class.

Present this as both Vectorworks sketches & simple storyboards.

LAB: Thursday Feb 27th – Vectorworks Tutorial #3

Tuesday March 4th – Media Servers - Watchout

REVIEW: Student design Sketches
MEDIA SERVER DEMO: Jordan Harrison – the *Company* Watchout system.
ASSIGNMENT: • Begin production on your Constructivist show design. Create a workflow Chart; system diagram & Projection plot in Vectorworks. Collect enough source media/ shoot footage and begin editing cues. Be prepared to give a 5 min quickie presentation on your show design for the next class.

LAB: Thursday March 6th – Vectorworks sketch workperiod

Tuesday March 11th Spring Break

Tuesday March 18th –

REVIEW: Student Quickie Presentations – ALL DIAGRAMS DUE
VOTE: Pick the two “best” designs for the group projects
ASSIGNMENT: Meet as a group and come up with a workflow and timeline and assign tasks to make your model box.

LAB: Thursday March 20th – LANs/ Render Farms/ video cards

Tuesday March 25th – Laser Cutter & Model building basics

LAB: Thursday March 27th - Networking & Control Protocols: MSC, RS-232, Touch OSC, IP

Tuesday April 1st - Hardware: Remote Control part 2

LAB: Thursday April 3rd – Signal & Power Control for long runs

Tuesday/Thursday April 8th & 10th - Work Period & Demos as needed

Tuesday/Thursday April 15th & 17th – Work Period – rough work review

Tuesday/Thursday April 22nd & 24th – Presentations

Tuesday/Thursday April 29th & March 1st – Presentations

Attendance: All students are expected to come to class on time and prepared. One unexcused absence will be allowed, any subsequent absences will result in a drop of ½ a letter grade. Attendance will be taken 15 minutes after class time begins.

GRADES

The University Undergraduate Grading Standard is as follows:

A	4.0	Excellent
B	3.0	Good
C	2.0	Satisfactory
D	1.0	Passing
R	0.0	Fail

Graduates may receive +/-

Undergraduates may not receive +/- for the final grade.

GRADES

The School of Drama has adopted the policy of giving letter grades in most courses. Mid-term and final grades are available to students on-line. To conform to the Privacy Act (see below), the School makes grades available to students, and not to parents. It is the responsibility of the student, not that of the University or the School, to keep parents informed. You can opt, through Student Information Online (SIO) to allow parents access to your academic records.

The University does not use a plus or minus system for undergraduates. Midterm grades will allow “plus/minus” designations for the purpose of instructor/student evaluations.

The University undergraduate student Grading Standard is as follows:

Grade Quality Points	
A	4.0 Excellent
B	3.0 Good
C	2.0 Satisfactory
D	1.0 Passing
R	0.0 Failure
X	0.0 Conditional Failure
P	Non-Factorable Passing
N	Non-Factorable Not Passing
O	Non-Factorable Audit
W	Non-Factorable Withdrawal
I	Non-Factorable Incomplete

This grading standard is for all students classified as seeking an undergraduate degree and special students taking undergraduate courses.

Grades in the School of Drama measure your progress toward mastery in your field. Expectations of progress a level of the curriculum. In addition, the School of Drama expects its students to maintain a “B” average in their major area. Faculty consider specific factors in determining grades. Individual rubrics and requirements are made available on a course-specific basis. The following are areas of competency the School of Drama evaluates on a school wide basis: artistic and professional aptitude and potential, skills mastery, professional conduct and engagement, innovation and positive collaboration.

INCOMPLETES

An “incomplete” is granted exclusively at the discretion of the course instructor. Once the decision has been made to grant a grade of “incomplete,” it is your responsibility as a student to arrange a deadline for work completion with the instructor. University policy dictates that any “incomplete” grade will automatically be changed to the default grade entered by the course professor by the end of the following semester if the coursework is not completed.

CONFERENCES AND CRITIQUES

Conferences and critiques are held at the end of each semester and upon request. Evaluations for many courses will be written at the end of each semester. Please pay careful attention to what is written. If anything is unclear, make sure to discuss the evaluation with your instructor.

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HONORS

University Honors are given to those students who have completed four years of training within the School of Drama with an overall grade point average of 3.50 and above. These honors are automatic and based solely on QPA.

College Honors will be given upon graduation if the student has a QPA average of 3.30 and has achieved artistic excellence, professional promise and/or innovation and entrepreneurship.

Dean's List In order to qualify, a student must have a semester average in the top 30% of the School and have carried a full-time load of at least 36 units. An incomplete grade or missing grade disqualifies a student from the Dean's list.

THE PRIVACY ACT

The following is a quote from the "Buckley Amendment" to the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974*: "Whenever a student has attained eighteen years of age, or is attending an institution of post secondary education, the rights accorded to and the consent required of the parent of the student shall there after only be accorded to and required of the eligible student." In effect, the law provides for:

- inspection of all records by a student.
- the opportunity, through a hearing, to challenge the contents of the records.
- the permission of the student for release of the records.
- maintenance of a record of all persons, including the student, who inspect the file.

As a result of this law, the Registrar's office sends parents copies of grade reports only during the freshman year. The School of Drama does not send any copies of notices to parents. All notices, evaluations or action letters are sent directly to the student. The full university interpretation of the policy is available in the Registrar's Office, Warner Hall 201.

ACADEMIC ACTIONS

You will be informed during a private conference if you are making inadequate progress towards your degree, which may result in an academic action. If you do not progress within a reasonable amount of time, a further academic action may be taken. The decision to impose an academic action is first initiated by the School of Drama, and then presented at the end of the semester to the Academic Actions Committee of the College Council for confirmation. The academic actions listed below do not follow a particular sequence; any of the actions may be appropriately imposed at any time upon recommendation of the School of Drama and confirmation by the Academic Actions Committee.

WARNING

Intention of the Action: A warning is intended to notify the student of unsatisfactory performance and to suggest that the student take steps to determine and correct the cause of the difficulty. It indicates a moderate concern on the side of the faculty for problems that are considered circumstantial and can be promptly rectified by the students. A student may be issued a warning for failure to maintain professional standards in a required course; or insufficient evidence of serious application to the professional standards of the School of Drama; or one or more grades of "C" or below in the student's major area of study.

Warning action is intended to notify the student of unsatisfactory performance, and to suggest that the student take steps to determine and correct the cause of the difficulty.

PROBATION

Intention of the Action: Probation is intended to notify the student of severe and/or continuous performance issues and to suggest that immediate steps are taken to correct the cause of the difficulty. Probation may be imposed for a more severe academic problem; *i.e.* a student currently on an action who receives a grade of "C" or below, or a student not currently on an action who receives more than one "C" in his/her major area of study. A student on probation may be required to achieve a specified quality grade point average and improve scholastic and/or artistic standing to an acceptable level in order to be removed from the action. Unless significant progress is made the action will remain, could escalate to Final Probation, Suspension or Drop from the School of Drama.

FINAL PROBATION

Intention of the Action: Final probation is intended to notify the student of significantly poor performance issues and continued failure to meet the professional standards of the School. It indicates significant concern on the side of the faculty on the ability of a student to rectify the causes of the problems. For a student on Final Probation, in the next semester in

residence, the student must receive no incomplete grades and no grades less than a C. If expectations are not met, the student may continue on Final Probation, or depending on individual performance issues, the action could escalate to Suspension or Drop from the School of Drama.

SCHOOL SUSPENSION

For poor performance or for personal problems that create an impediment to professional achievement in the School of Drama, a student may be suspended from the School of Drama. A student is suspended from the School of Drama, but not the university, when it is deemed in the best interest of the student to allow continuation of study outside of the School of Drama during the period of the suspension. The student is not permitted to take courses in the School of Drama for a period to be determined by this faculty action, but will be readmitted at the end of the period of Departmental Suspension specified by the faculty after the condition of the Departmental Suspension is satisfied. It is imposed if the student is not making significant progress towards his/her degree; or following a significantly poor semester (or previous semester(s)) during which the student was on academic action; or if faculty feel that a student with the potential for success needs to address the issues impeding his/her academic achievement while taking classes in another department at Carnegie Mellon.

DROP FROM THE SCHOOL OF DRAMA

This is an action imposed by the School of Drama in the case of any student whose progress in the professional training offered is considered insufficient to warrant continuing in the current professional field of study in this college. This action is taken when a student is lacking an essential requirement for the profession, but whose general scholastic ability, habits, and character justify an opportunity in some other field of education. This action terminates the student's enrollment in the School of Drama, but is not intended to prejudice admission to another school or college of the university, or to another institution.

This academic action allows the student three choices:

1. Transfer to another Carnegie Mellon University department/school. A student must contact that school or department.
2. Request for Transitional Student status in the College of Fine Arts for one semester. A student must make an appointment with Carnegie Mellon Resource Advising Center (CMARC) to discuss this.
3. Withdraw from Carnegie Mellon University. An application for Withdrawal form is available at www.cmu.edu/hub.

We strongly encourage contact with CMARC (www.cmu.edu/CMARC) to determine what is the student's best course of action.

WITHDRAWAL OR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

A student who withdraws or takes a leave of absence from the university, at any time up to and including the last day of classes and excluding the final examination period, does so with the understanding that no grades will be recorded for the semester. In some cases the student's department or school may choose to state the time at which or the conditions under which the student may be permitted to return. Withdrawal or voluntary leave of absence requires that a student file a Withdrawal/Leave of Absence form with the HUB, after securing the appropriate signature approvals. Return from withdrawal or voluntary leave of absence requires department or school approval through a Request for Return from Leave of Absence form. (www.cmu.edu/hub)

Students should keep the following in mind when considering a Withdrawal/Leave of Absence:

- The training process is such that it is not possible for students to take only a semester away from the School (unless on an agreed internship, or semester abroad).
- Students are encouraged to take a Leave of Absence if they feel the need to take a break from the intense training experienced during their studies.
- Students in good standing in all courses and on no academic action when taking the leave will be reinstated into the School at the level of training they were about to take when requesting the leave of absence.
- Students in poor standing or on academic action who request a leave of absence will be required to re-audition and/or interview when the leave is up before being permitted to re-enter the School. Students who, due to illness or personal problems, need to take a Leave of Absence during a semester will be discussed on an individual basis. A student might be asked to repeat the incomplete semester's study or, if the academic progress is excellent, be allowed to return and continue with their class.

APPEAL PROCEDURE

Students are free to appeal all actions through a letter to the Dean of the College of Fine Arts and copied to the Head of the School of Drama.