Course Syllabus

Department: Visual and Performing Arts

Date: June 2012

I. Course Prefix and Number: THE 115

Course Name: Backstage Practicum

Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 1 credit hour and 3 contact hours

Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites:
The Backstage Practicum provides students the opportunity to participate in the semester’s mainstage production as a backstage technician. Students can serve as the stage manager, light board operator, sound technician, costume dresser, prop runner, or on the shift crew. Technical positions will vary with the needs of each production. Course graded as satisfactory/unsatisfactory. This course may be repeated more than once.

II. Course Outcomes and Objectives

   Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of this experience the student will have a working knowledge of the backstage operations of a live production as well as basic theatre etiquette as it applies to backstage technicians. They may also have learned to operate various pieces of sound and lighting equipment, executed shifts in scenery during a live production, as well as organize and maintain the properties for the production. Stage Managers will also learn how to call lighting and sound cues.

   The student will:

1. Gain knowledge of backstage operations of a live production by attending all technical and dress rehearsals, with the exception of one technical rehearsal, but only in the event of a conflicting night class. No dress rehearsal can be missed.

2. Apply knowledge of backstage operations by performing assigned position during all performances with no exceptions.

3. Operate one of the following backstage assignments: follow spot operator, light board operator, sound board operator, projectionist, properties crew, shift crew, dresser, stage manager, house manager, or assistant stage manager.

4. Log a minimum of 30 hours of experience.

5. Students completing this course via an approved outside organization must also submit a STUDENT PRACTICUM EVALUATION. The evaluation is to be completed by their supervisor and submitted within two weeks of the close of the production. A copy of the program crediting the student and their position must be included.
Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum:
In order to create well-rounded theatre practitioners, this backstage practicum will help the performer appreciate the work of theatre technicians as well as give students interested in a career in theatre real working experience for their resume.

College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course:
☐ writing ☐ computer literacy ☑ ethics/values
☐ oral communications ☐ citizenship
☐ reading ☐ global concerns
☐ mathematics ☐ information resources
☐ critical thinking

III. Instructional Materials and Methods

Types of Course Materials:
A play-script and/or libretto from the production will be provided.

Methods of Instruction (e.g. Lecture, Lab, Seminar …):
Practical experience running rehearsals and performances.

IV. Assessment Measures (Summarize how the college and student learning outcomes will be assessed):
This course was designed to fulfill the professional competency learning outcome.

Students’ ethics and values will be assessed based on the student’s ability to arrive prepared and on time, attend all rehearsals and performances, and performing their duties according to professional standards. Students will be evaluated by direct observation of their supervisor and/or via the student practicum evaluation.

Students will be assigned a passing or failing grade.

Additionally, if the practicum is fulfilled outside of the department, students must submit a program from the production (sighting their name and function) and an hourly work log.

V. General Outline of Topics Covered:
A. Rehearsal Etiquette
   1. Technical Rehearsals
   2. Dress Rehearsals
B. Equipment Instruction
C. Pre-show Checks
D. Performance Etiquette