

# THEATRE 268 SYLLABUS

## Scene Painting

9:00–Noon Monday - Friday

1:00–3:00 PM Monday – Friday (open lab time as needed)

Armstrong Hall Scenic Studio

**Instructor:** Scott Olinger  
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Cel – 319-361-6349  
email:solinger@cornellcollege.edu

**Office Hours:** Noon – 1PM T,Th  
and by appointment

There is no required text for this course. You will be required to purchase a small kit including brushes, a sponge, and a feather for painting, and to pay a lab fee of \$40 to defray the cost of paint, masonite, foam, muslin and your brushes, sponges, and feathers (which you will keep). This lab fee is due by the beginning of the second week of class. Checks should be made payable to *Cornell College Theatre and Dance*.

You will be required to research and bring to class a number of research samples for this course. You are expected to have an approximately 8"x10" high quality color printed images available at the start of each project. You MAY NOT use an electronic device for your research image. Color printers are available for your use on campus. Each image must be in color and of sufficient resolution (photographic quality) or your grade will be penalized, you will be sent back to collect an image, and you will start on your project late. The instructor will not be available for make up time in these cases. I suggest you purchase a few clear acetate sleeves to protect your images and let you try color samples on the image. When you submit a project, you must attach your research image to the backside of your project and write your name. Failure to attach your image will result in lack of credit.

## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

1. In the event of fire or a building evacuation, please exit through the north side of the building (the "front") and gather as a group in the grass outside of Merner Hall.
2. In the event of a tornado or severe weather emergency, go to the greenroom hallway.
3. In the event of a medical emergency, call 911 (9-911 from a campus phone) and then call public safety at x4299. Send someone to wait at the front and rear entrances to the building to guide first responders to the classroom.
4. In the event of a violent weapons incident, lock and barricade doors, turn off lights, close window blinds, get low and stay behind cover (desks, walls, etc.). Silence cell phones and stay quiet. Stay put until notified by safety officials that it is safe to leave.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

The goal of the scenic artist in a theatrical production is simple: to make the audience believe. To that end, it is the responsibility of the scenic artist, working under the supervision of the scenic designer, to create the illusion that rough plywood surfaces are in fact brick walls, or that a masonite floor is instead a cobblestone walkway. Working from painters elevations (produced by the scenic designer), the scenic artist puts the final touches on the scenery and brings the set to life.

In this class we will (note the italicized College Educational Priorities):

1. Develop a variety of **scene painting skills** to include scumbling, wet blending, splattering, sponging, distressing, drybrushing, building up layers and layout skills (*Creativity, Communication, Vocation*).
2. Practice **mixing and matching** colored paint samples (*Quantitative Reasoning, Critical Thinking*).
3. Discuss the **role and duties of the scenic artist** in the theatrical production model (*Vocation, Communication*).
4. Produce a number of **practical painting projects** to simulate common surfaces in theatrical productions, working on common construction materials such as masonite and muslin, and using visual research (*Information Literacy, Vocation, Critical Thinking*).

The learning objective of the Department of Theatre are as follows:

- ***Intercultural Literacy and Inquiry***

Students will analyze and critique the social and cultural context of historical and contemporary theatrical conventions using a range of scholarly methods.

- ***Knowledge and Application***

Students will develop an understanding of theatrical expression through creative application of knowledge in the areas of performance, management, directing, research, analysis, design and technology.

- ***Collaboration***

Students will engage in and support the collaborative nature of the production process and evaluate the artistic choices that contribute to the theatrical event.

- ***Vocation***

Students will discover and prepare for the range of theatrical opportunities and challenges that await them beyond their college experience.

- ***Well-Being***

Students will embrace partnership, empathy, and professionalism in an effort to promote the individual, civic, and social responsibilities necessary for a fulfilling life.

In this course, we will focus on knowledge and application, collaboration, vocation, and well-being.

## COURSE STRUCTURE

THE 264 is a studio based course in which you will be led through a series of practical painting exercises. You will begin each exercise by finding a source from which to paint, and then bring that source to class. You are responsible for finding a source of sufficient size and photographic quality before we start each project. As stated above, if your source is insufficient, you will be penalized and sent away to finish your research. Feel free to bring sources in early to check them with me. We will continue by examining your source and discussing the approach to the project, both through the order of steps and the techniques to use. Class time will consist largely of supervised work on these projects. You are not permitted to work in the studio without myself, the TD, or a designated student work study student in the shop or nearby. At no time may you operate any of the tools without direct supervision by myself or the TD.

You will be evaluated by your work on the completed projects in this course – in other words, the better it looks, the better the grade. Because painting is subjective, grades will be assigned based on the general level of progression in the class; the level of individual progress and work ethic/attitude will also be considered. This is not a curve per se, but your work will certainly be compared to the rest of the class as a whole.

## CLASS ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken each day by the instructor. If you come in late, it is your responsibility to make sure the instructor recorded your attendance. Missing more than fifteen minutes of any class will be considered an absence. Repeated lateness will result in a shortening of this time. **Each absence will result in a loss of one letter grade for the course.** If you have an excused absence, contact the instructor immediately upon returning to class. Excused absences include illness (with valid doctor's excuse), school-sanctioned activities, death in the family, etc. Final approval of absence rests with instructor. **NOTE: Prolonged absences from class, excused or otherwise, will have a detrimental effect on your grade.**

A note on the 15th day course drop: students are only eligible to drop on the fifteenth day if the instructor feels that the student has made every effort to master the material and pass the course and has attended all class periods. A 15<sup>th</sup> day drop is NOT a chance to avoid a poor grade due to frequent absences, poor studying, and general poor habits on a student's part.

## ACADEMIC HONESTY

The following is reprinted from The Compass:

Cornell College expects all members of the Cornell community to act with academic integrity. An important aspect of academic integrity is respecting the work of others. A student is expected to explicitly acknowledge ideas, claims, observations, or data of others, unless generally known. When a piece of work is submitted for credit, a student is asserting that the submission is her or his work unless there is a citation of a specific source. If there is no appropriate acknowledgment of sources, whether intended or not, this may constitute a violation of the College's requirement for honesty in academic work and may be treated as a case of academic dishonesty. The procedures regarding how the College deals with cases of academic dishonesty appear in *The Compass*, our student handbook, under the heading "Honesty in Academic Work."

If you are found to be dishonest in your work, the instructor has the right to fail you on that assignment, or for the class in its entirety. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any form. In this class, plagiarism refers to claiming another's work as your own, such as signing your name to someone else's painting. It does not refer to painting or reproducing someone's photograph, etc.

## GRADING

All grades based on this 100 point scale:

100 - 94	A
93 - 90	A-
89 - 87	B+
86 - 84	B
83 - 80	B-
79 - 77	C+
76 - 74	C
73 - 70	C-
69 - 60	D
59 - 0	F

Grades for the course will break down as follows:

- 8 projects at 20 points each	160 points
- 1 group project worth 40 points	40 points
<b>-Total points possible</b>	<b>200 points</b>

Because of the size of the class and the number of projects, the majority of feedback on projects will be given as oral comments during class. If you wish to discuss comments or if you feel there is a disparity between the comments and assigned grade, please contact the instructor immediately. Unless stated otherwise, work is due at the beginning of class. Late or incomplete work will be devalued at least 50% or not accepted on the instructor's prerogative.

## **ACCOMODATIONS**

Cornell College makes reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Students should notify the Coordinator of Academic Support and Advising and their course instructor of any disability related accommodations within the first three days of the term for which the accommodations are required, due to the fast pace of the block format. For more information on the documentation required to establish the need for accommodations and the process of requesting the accommodations, see <http://www.cornellcollege.edu/academic-support-and-advising/disabilities/index.shtml>.

Students seeking accommodation for religious observances are asked to contact the instructor during the first three days of the block to discuss a reasonable accommodation.

## **MISCELLANY**

The instructor will try to teach this class as much as possible from the ground up. If you do not understand any of the jargon used in class, please speak up immediately and I will clarify. Students come from diverse backgrounds - do not assume that everyone else knows or understands what was said and you are the only one who doesn't. PLEASE ask.

Professors have varied duties to the college, and teaching in the classroom is but one part of the job. Production work, committee assignments, departmental meetings and other such items fill the day quickly. There are times where the instructor may be hard to find – simply calling my office may not be enough to get me. You may need to come to the building and look onstage or in the shop. You will notice that my cell number is on this syllabus. Please text me there up to 11PM at night if you need to (and after 7:00 AM if needed). Although my schedule is very busy, I will make time to meet with you if you make the best effort to contact me. If all else fails, leave me an email with several times you can meet, remembering that it may take more time to respond. I promise to make time to meet with you, even if it's 1AM or 6AM, but you must make a good faith effort to reach me.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Unless the Dean of the College delays or cancels classes, individual faculty will determine whether classes meet based on their ability to come to campus safely. Faculty will notify students of class cancellations or alternative arrangements for learning during the inclement weather (Moodle assignments/readings, independent study, group work on campus, etc.) via established procedures.

In the event of inclement weather, such as a severe thunderstorm or tornado, listen to your radio for weather service reports. Weather bulletins will announce if the Linn County and/or Mount Vernon areas are under a severe thunderstorm or tornado watch or warning. A watch occurs when conditions exist which make a severe storm or tornado possible. A warning is issued when a severe storm is approaching or a tornado has been sighted. In the event of a tornado or other severe weather warning notification will be sent via the

RAM Emergency System. When a warning is issued, take inside shelter immediately. Seek the best possible shelter such as the lowest floor of the building, a small enclosed area in the center of the building, or a space without windows. Large open interior areas should be avoided. During a warning, building managers, Residence Life staff members, The Thomas Commons staff members and other College officials will provide building specific safety instructions. Students are expected to follow these directions for their own safety and for the safety of others.

In the event of heavy snow, listen to local news and radio broadcasts for information regarding class cancellations. Students may also view announcements via e-mail, on the College's web page, or contact the Thomas Commons Information Desk. Due to our residential campus, it is a rare occurrence that classes at Cornell are canceled due to snow. When snow is present on campus, Facilities Services makes a concerted effort to clear walkways and stairs immediately after snowfall while considering the possibility of continued snowfall. Due to this responsibility, assistance in removing snow from, on, or around vehicles cannot be provided.

## **LAB POLICIES**

Wear proper attire to class each day. You will get paint on every inch of your person, including your face and in your hair. Scenic painting techniques are often messy, and even if your process is contained, your neighbor may not be. ***No open toed shoes are permitted at ANY time in the studio. You will be sent home to change and recorded as absent if you wear open toed shoes in the lab.*** Occasionally, we may work outside on the loading dock or on the stage, so be prepared. The studio must be kept clean and organized. All paint must be sealed, all brushes and containers must be cleaned and washed out. Wet projects should be placed in the designated spot – remember that this is a functioning scenic studio – if you leave it in the middle of the floor, it may get stepped on or sawdust strewn upon it. This is your warning. If the studio is not cared for, your grades will be penalized – we are here to teach you, not clean up after you, and mistakes can cost money in this business.

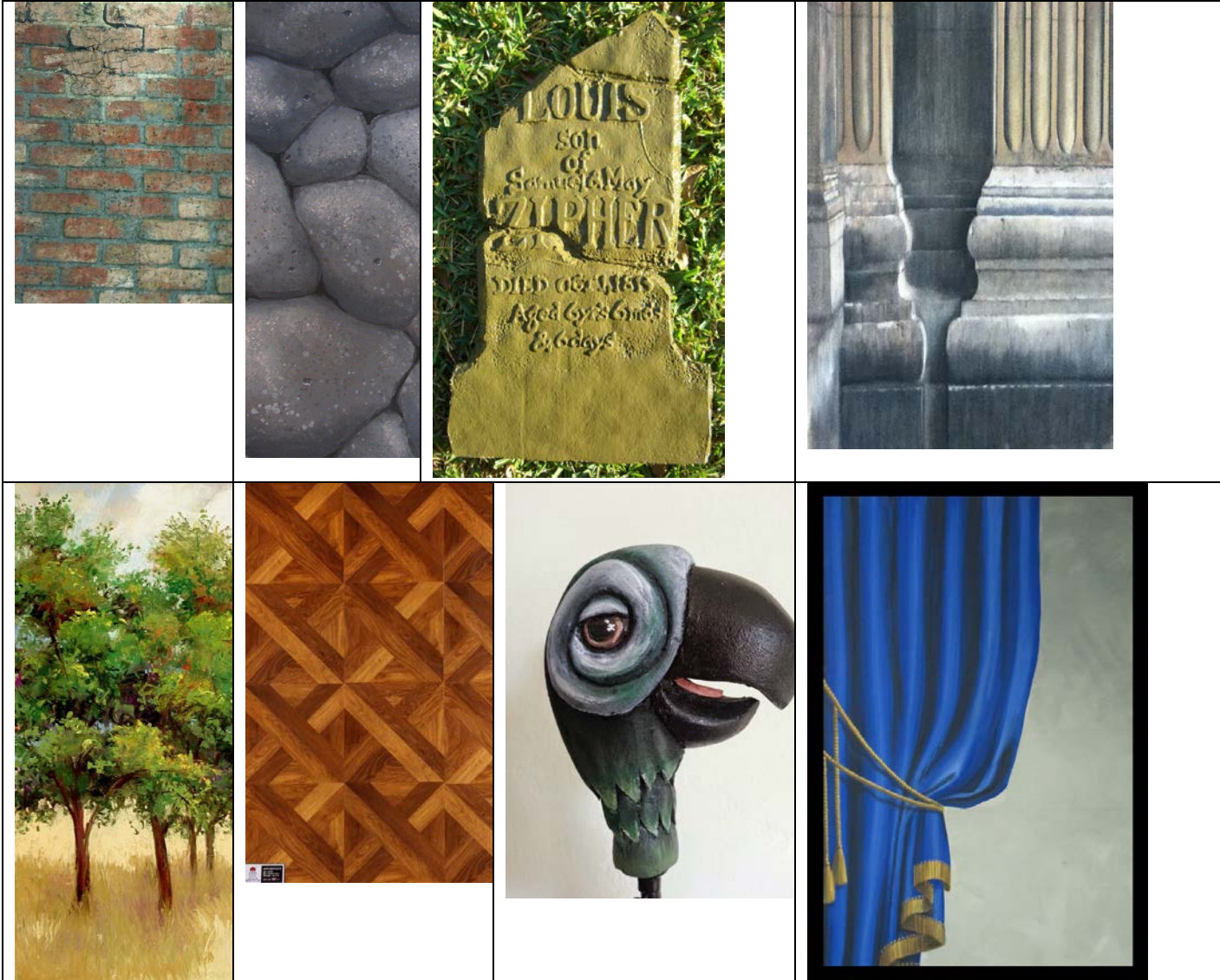
## **CLASS SCHEDULE**

Projects (samples of each are provided to give an idea of each project, not as the actual project to paint). NOTE: Class will not meet on Friday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, although the shop will be open for you to work.

### **Individual Projects - 10 points each**

- 1 – Brick (due 11/28)
- 2 - Cobblestone (due 12/3)
- 3 – Granite tombstone (due 12/5)
- 4 – Sculpted Greek column (due 12/10)

- 5 – Foliage (due 12/10)
- 6 – Parquet wooden floor (due 12/12)
- 7 – Foam carving 3d project (due 12/14)
- 8 – Drapery (due 12/19)





Group project – gridded mural/backdrop landscape, 20 pts (begin one week prior to final class – due 12/19)

