

Theatre Practicum Syllabus
THR 101, 201, 301, & 401
Effective Spring 2020

Instructor: Henry Bial
Phone: 785.864.6158
Email: hbial@ku.edu
Office:356Murphy

Technical Director: Alex Weston
Phone: 785.864.2698
Email: Stgmgr@ku.edu
Office: 221 Murphy

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Theatre is an endeavor that is best learned through practice. The University Theatre offers students a number of opportunities to work on and crew productions. Practicum allows students to earn required class credit while engaged in these activities.

EARNING PRACTICUM CREDIT:

Each of the Practicum courses is a one credit hour course. There are two ways earn practicum credit. The first is to for a student to complete a running crewing assignment for a departmental production. The other way to earn practicum credit is to assist in any of the shops for 40 hours. To earn practicum credit this way you must have completed the Production course in that area.

Please note: not all activities are eligible or appropriate for practicum credit. Non-credit activities include: directing projects, non-departmental projects (whether or not guided or advised by faculty or staff), activities for which credit is already being earned for another course, activities for the University for which you are receiving pay, and activities deemed inappropriate for meeting the purposes of theatre practicum. If you have any questions, please contact the Instructor.

ENROLLING IN PRACTICUM

To apply for a crew assignment, you must complete and turn in the attached Practicum Assignment Application form. Turn the form into the Technical Director in 221 Murphy.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Practicum credit for running crew is earned by completing training in various areas, then utilizing those skills during the Technical Rehearsals, Dress Rehearsals and Performances of Departmental Productions. Practicum Credit earned by working in the one of the shops requires the student to have previously passed the associated Production Class. Practicum shop assignments are made with the consent of the Technical Director and Shop Manager.

Everyone should come into the practicum sequence with some fundamental knowledge of theatre in general, and the space they are working in particular. There are additional skills that will benefit the student's knowledge, the running of our shows and the program in general. These skills should be developed over time and should augment the student's experiences in other areas.

For 101 the student will be responsible for demonstrating knowledge of the fundamentals, and two of the basic skills. For 201 the student will be responsible for demonstrating knowledge of two additional basic skills. For 301 the student will be responsible for demonstrating knowledge of one additional basic skill.

By completion of the practicum sequence the student will have practical knowledge of the fundamentals and at least 5 areas of technical theatre. Knowledge of these skills will be demonstrated by way of a brief practical test. There will be regular training sessions during the course of the semester. Students may also schedule individual and small group training sessions with the area heads or the GTAs. These skills are also taught in the Production classes; the student may receive the training and take the tests in any of these ways.

Students must have completed training in the fundamentals as well as the area of their crew assignment no later than one week prior to Final Run Through of the show in which they are participating.

PRACTICUM OPPORTUNITES

Crew Assignments: to be determined by the Technical Director and Instructor. You must submit the attached application form. Application forms, training documents and other information is available at: KUTheatre.com > Resources > Backstage > Crewing.

If you would like to earn Practicum Credit by working 40 hours in one of the shops, please see the Technical Director to arrange the details. Generally, it is expected that the student will put in regular hours, not less than 2 hours at a time. It is typically expected for the hourly commitment to be completed in advance of Opening Night of the last show of the semester.

Stage Managing or Assistant Directing: fill out an application and submit it in 317 Murphy. Applications may be found online at KUTheatre.com > Resources > Backstage > Stage Management

EXPECTATIONS & GRADING

All students enrolled in any practicum must attend a mandatory introductory meeting. There will be several opportunities to attend this meeting at the beginning of each semester. In addition, students will be asked to attend one other session in order to be trained in basic necessary skills prior to their crewing assignment. These sessions will also be held several times so that everyone will have the opportunity to attend.

The grading for Running Crew assignments is assessed as follows:

Completing the Quizzes will comprise 20% of the final grad. Performance on you Running crew assignment will comprise 80% of the final grade, and will be assessed using this rubric.

	Levels of achievement		
Criteria	Unacceptable 0%	Acceptable 50%	Preferred 100%
Complete written and practical quizzes on time	Quizzes incomplete or late.	Quizzes completed by 1 week prior to Final Run Through.	Quizzes completed by 2 weeks prior to Final Run Through.
Attendance at running crew obligations	Misses required production events. Does not notify the Stage Manager.	In attendance at all production events from Final Run Through to Strike. Notify the SM of conflicts in advance.	In attendance at all production events from Final Run Through to Strike.

Punctuality	Arrive after the specified call time. Does not notify Stage Manager.	Arrive on time to ready to work at the start of all production events. Notify the SM in advance of tardiness in advance.	Arrive on time, ready to work at the start of all production events.
Performance of crew assignments	Demonstrate a negative attitude or demeanor regarding assignments or the production. Inappropriate attire for Running Crew. Unfocused, and disinterested in the production and tasks at hand.	Demonstrate a positive attitude and demeanor. Wears appropriate attire for Running Crew. Stays focused on tasks and engaged with the production.	Demonstrate an interest in engaging with the production beyond the expected requirements. Seeks additional duties or responsibilities. Offers solutions to dynamic production needs.

Grading for working in one of the shops for Practicum Credit is assessed as follows

40+hrs	100%	A
36hrs	90%	B
32hrs	80%	C
28hrs	70%	D
24hrs	60%	F

If you are a Theatre major, you must complete three practicums (101, 201 and 301). If you are a Theatre minor, you need to complete only one theatre practicum. Regardless of your major or minor, any student *may* take multiple practicum courses; if you are considering this, please consult your major advisor.

CREW REQUIREMENTS

The Department of Theatre and Dance will honor its commitment to provide the students with productions in which to participate. The Department is counting on the practicum student to honor their commitment to our productions as crew members. Please *do not* accept a crew position unless you are *absolutely certain* that you can fulfill it. If you drop a crew assignment, you have effectively failed that activity. If you must drop a crew, contact Technical Director, immediately so that he can find a replacement. Finding someone to take your place is helpful and will be taken into consideration the next time you request a crewing assignment.

You are required to be on the production from the Final Run Through rehearsal (FRT or “crew-view”) to the final performance and strike. This usually involves 12 to 14 evenings and one weekend afternoon. To find the exact dates you will be needed, please look carefully at the production grid. This grid can be found on the University Theatre website. The Technical Director will also issue a Crewing Time Commitment for each production.

The nature of crew duties means you must be available for *every* rehearsal and performance from the final run-through (FRT) through final performance.

STAGE MANAGING

Students may earn an entire practicum credit by stage-managing a production. The class to enroll in is THR 401. The Artistic Director and the Technical Director in consultation with each production's director make Stage Management, Assistant Directing and Assistant Stage Managing assignments.

For more information about the department and policies, go to <http://www.theatre.ku.edu>.

Disability Resources:

"The Academic Achievement and Access Center (AAAC) coordinates academic accommodations and services for all eligible KU students with disabilities. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted the AAAC, please do so as soon as possible. They are located in 22 Strong Hall and can be reached at 785-864-4064 (V/TTY). Information about their services can be found at <http://www.access.ku.edu>. Please contact me privately in regard to your needs in this course."

Department of Theatre Diversity Statement

The Department of Theatre at the University of Kansas is an educational community comprised of individuals from different ethnic, racial, and religious groups and of different genders, political beliefs, ages, abilities, and sexual identities. In light of this diversity, the Department of Theatre at KU is dedicated to contribute to the development of an integrated, pluralistic society in which individuals model and support humaneness and respect for the individual. The Department is committed to providing quality education which is enhanced by the perspectives provided by individuals and groups with varying backgrounds and views. Racism, sexism, and other discriminatory attitudes and behaviors impede learning and working. Conversely, respect for differences enhances educational and work experiences. KU Theatre is determined to create an environment that cherishes and nourishes this diversity.

Classroom Conduct

The scope and content of the material included in this course are defined by the instructor in consultation with the responsible academic unit. While the orderly exchange of ideas, including questions and discussions prompted by lectures, discussion sessions and laboratories, is viewed as a normal part of the educational environment, the instructor has the right to limit the scope and duration of these interactions. Students who engage in disruptive behavior, including persistent refusal to observe boundaries defined by the instructor regarding inappropriate talking, discussions, and questions in the classroom or laboratory may be subject to discipline for non-academic misconduct for disruption of teaching or academic misconduct, as defined in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities (CSRR), Article 22, Section C, and the University Senate Rules and Regulations, Section 2.4.6. Article 22 of CSRR also defines potential sanctions for these types of infractions. If an instructor believed that student's behavior is disrupting the class and interfering with normal instruction, the faculty member may direct the student to leave the class for the remainder of the class time. In such circumstances the professor is the sole judge that student's behavior is sufficiently disruptive to warrant a temporary dismissal from the classroom. Please note that for the purposes of Theatre Practicum courses, "Classroom Conduct" applies to any rehearsal, performance, or production space in which you are completing your practicum work.

RUNNING CREW APPLICATION

This is your application to be assigned to a running crew for a University Theatre and Dance production. Be especially mindful of listing all possible conflicts that you anticipate. Consult the Production Grid in order to understand the exact required dates for each production: www.kutheatre.com/season-information

Questions regarding enrollment, grading and credit can be directed to Henry Bial, 356B Murphy. Questions regarding assignments, scheduling and training can be directed to Alex Weston, 221 Murphy.

Name _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Theatre Major or Minor? (circle one)

Freshman __ Sophomore __ Junior __ Senior __ Graduate __

I have completed the following practicum courses (the activities that I have successfully completed are listed):

THR 101 _____

THR 201 _____

THR 301 _____

My Schedule Conflicts

I know that I will have the following evening and weekend conflicts this semester:

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

The Show(s) I would like to crew:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

The areas I'm interested in, ranked in order:

_____ Scenery/Props

_____ Lighting

_____ Wardrobe

_____ Audio

_____ Projections

I would like to be assigned to two productions this semester: ___ Yes ___ No

Turn in the completed form to the Technical Director in either 221 Murphy, or 317 Murphy.