



Course Outline

2026-2027 Catalog

DRAM 22 - Introduction to Stage Lighting

Catalog Description

Transfer Status: CSU/UC

Unit(s): 3.00

Activity: 102.00 Contact hours/51.00 Out of class hours/153.00 Total hours/3.00 Unit(s)

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Course Description: This course involves the study and execution of stage lighting with emphasis on equipment, control, color and their relationship to design. Students will engage in theoretical discussions and review artistic pursuit in lighting design, as well as participate in "hands-on" activities in a practical setting. (C-ID THTR 173).

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify, define and describe terminology commonly associated with theatrical lighting design and execution.
2. Identify the controllable qualities of theatrical lighting.
3. Identify the functions of theatrical lighting.
4. Recognize and explain the different types of drawings and paperwork commonly used in theatrical lighting design.
5. Calculate the capacity of electrical wire gage and safe current flow.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the function of various theatrical lighting instruments.
7. Recall and practice safety information concerning electrical hazards.
8. Participate in the hanging, circuiting, focusing, and operation of theatrical lighting equipment.
9. Demonstrate an understanding of style, color, texture, angle and mood as they relate to theatrical lighting design.
10. Produce the paperwork necessary to implement a lighting design.

Course Content

Topic Titles / Suggested Time Topic		
	<u>Lecture/Activity</u>	
<u>Topics</u>		<u>Lec Hrs</u> <u>Act Hrs</u>
Introduction to designing with light		12.00
Electrical theory and practice		12.00
Lighting Equipment		12.00
Lighting design paperwork		6.00
Rehearsal and performance procedures		6.00
Color theory		6.00
Lighting angles		6.00
Advanced and in depth theories of lighting design		16.00
a. Dramas		
b. Comedies		
c. Musicals		
d. Dance concert lighting		
May include theoretical projects		2.00
Assist in the supervision of stage crews:		12.00
a. Supervision of instrument and cable repair		
b. Supervision of hanging, focusing and circuiting of lighting equipment for departmental productions		
Practical applications of lighting design		12.00
a. Organizing and performing the duties of Master Electrician for a departmental production		
b. Organizing and performing the duties of Assistant Lighting Designer for a Departmental production		
c. Designing the lighting for a departmental production		
Total Hours:		0.00 102.00

Methods of Instruction

- A. Collaborative Group Work
- B. Demonstrations
- C. Discussion
- D. Homework: Students are required to complete one hour of outside-of-class homework for every two hours of activity

E. Group Activity

Methods of Evaluation

- A. Quizzes
- B. Portfolios
- C. Projects
- D. Written Assignments
- E. Mid-term and final examinations

Examples of Assignments

Reading Assignments

1. Read the script of a play selected by the instructor and analyze the setting and scenes of the play. Present your analysis in class.
2. Read reviews and articles on lighting design in the trade journal "Live Design Magazine" or other publications (print or internet-based) and discuss readings.

Writing Assignments

1. Write a 750-word analysis of requirements for the lighting elements of a play selected by the instructor.
2. Write a one to two page critique of a live production detailing the artistic design concepts of the lighting as well as the functionality of the lighting within the world of the particular production.

Out-of-Class Assignments

1. Attend at least two live performances of plays, musicals, or dance productions and be prepared to discuss the elements of lighting used to enhance the performance.
2. Complete a basic lighting plot of an assigned play or production for class presentation.

Recommended Materials of Instruction

Gillette, J. Michael & McNamara, M. (2020). Designing with Light: An Intro to Stage Lighting. *Routledge*, 7th. 9780367000691.

Other Learning Materials

Instructor Handouts

Selected scripts according to the production

Ground plans, models, light plot

Color elevations, color renderings

Minimum Qualifications

Drama/Theater Arts (Masters Required)

Stagecraft

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