

SYLLABUS

TH 615: Lighting Fundamentals, Section 001, Fall 2017

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 9AM-9:50AM (3 cr.) @ RJ140

Instructor: Matt Reynolds, 205-348-8032, mcreynolds1@ua.edu

Office Hours: Mondays 10-11AM or by appointment @ RJ229

PREREQUISITES: Graduate student standing

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Lecture-based and hands-on training in theatrical lighting implementation; 3 cr. Provide the advanced graduate level design & technical student an in-depth understanding of the technical aspects of stage lighting, including implementation and maintenance of lighting fixtures, cables, and control equipment; and a thorough understanding of stage lighting science, terminology, technique, and professionalism.

REQUIRED MATERIALS: A pocket notepad and writing utensil for notes; smartphones and recording devices are acceptable if not misused or distributed without my express permission. Laptops are acceptable on lecture-only days, but will be too cumbersome for practical days and field trips. You may benefit from bringing these items: 6" or 8" adjustable-head crescent wrench, multitool, pocketknife (4" or less), flashlight, gloves. Recommended text: Backstage Handbook by Paul Carter.

CLASS OBJECTIVES: The professor will discuss theatrical/event lighting equipment, terminology, implementation, and safety. The professor will review professionalism in the theatre/event production industry.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will evaluate lighting implementation in practice. Students will serve on an electrics crew. Students will develop a sense of professionalism and perform accordingly. Students will identify stage technology and discuss methods of use. Students who succeed in this course should be able to fulfill the duties of a Master Electrician at the regional theatre level or union stagehand, including implementation and maintenance of lighting fixtures, cables, and control equipment; and complemented by a thorough understanding of stage lighting science, terminology, technique, and professionalism.

COURSE TOPICS (in no particular order)

Timelines, crews, professionalism	Plots & Paperwork (hookups, schedules, invoices, ME reports)
Go-bags, gig prep, apparel	Focus (ME & elec), Hang/strike (ME & elec)
Lighting duties (deck elec, board op; pyro, atmo)	Paper tech, level set, cue-to-cue/dry tech, tech, dress, preview, run
Knots, taping, coiling, circuiting, storage	Production meetings
Physics of light (reflection, refraction, color)	Design methods
Sources (incandescent, LED, fluorescent, arc, laser)	Lighting positions
Fixture types and uses	Hardware & Tools
Followspots, Ellipsoidals	Ratchet straps (flat, U, S, E)
Movers, LEDs, other fixtures	Fall arrests, Rigging (pinrail, arbor, motor)
Getting the gear (purchase, rental, borrowing)	Box trucks, load bars, ramps & docks
Electricity	Lifts (personnel, scissor, fork, aerial)
Wiring, soldering, tie-ins, connectors	Venues & tours (theatre, arena, corporate, outdoor)
Patch bays & dimmer racks	
Data (DMX, Cat6e, MIDI)	
Lighting consoles & operation	

CLASS GUIDELINES: As this class focuses on professionalism, it is required to comport yourselves with the utmost work ethic and attitude. This means you must arrive on time, dressed appropriately, with your materials. You must display a positive attitude, eagerness to work, and attentiveness to your surroundings and instructions. You may lose professionalism points and/or be dismissed from class for infractions including but not limited to: improper use of electronic devices, improper clothing, failure to bring necessary materials, exhaustion, illness, intoxication, or poor attitude. Proper clothing must be able to get dirty, torn, and used at heights or in awkward positions without compromising one's integrity or safety. This also means no physically restrictive clothing, no dangly strings or jewelry that could get caught in machinery, and closed-toe shoes only. Judgment of the properness of one's attire is at the discretion of the instructor. Check your UA email daily.

GRADING

Professionalism – 10% Positive attitude, eagerness, attentiveness, punctuality, work ethic.
 Show Analyses – 20% 4 papers (5% each) evaluating lighting implementation in performance.
 Crew – 10% Serve at least 6 hours on a T&D electrical crew this semester.
 Quizzes – 40% 8, in-class. Multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and practical.
 Final Exam – 20% Multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and practical.

SHOW ANALYSES: A brief survey (minimum one page typed: single-spaced, 100% character spacing, 1” margins, size 12 normal font) will be turned by the Wednesday following the closing of each Theatre & Dance production. The paper shall contain an evaluation of the lighting choices for the production, including the achievement of design goals, notable technical choices to achieve said goals, and learned experiences. You are encouraged to email your papers to me at mcreynolds1@ua.edu.

GRADE POINT BREAKDOWN

90- 100%	80- 89.9%	75- 79.9%	70- 74.9%	<70%
4.0 (A)	3.0 (B)	2.0 (C)	1.0 (D)	0.0 (F)

A final grade of I (incomplete) is given for passable work that could not be completed due to circumstances beyond the student's control. The I grade cannot be used to avoid a student receiving a D or F grade.

POLICY ON MISSED EXAMS & CLASSWORK: There will be no “extra credit” offered. Late work, including makeup quizzes, will be docked 5% for each class session it is late. Proof of valid excused absences (e.g. doctor's note) is required to makeup quizzes without penalty. Office hours are available to retake tests and gain clarification on class topics, not to reteach missed class time.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Students are allowed 3 unexcused absences after the first full week of classes without penalty. Each subsequent absence will incur a 5% final grade penalty. Three tardies will constitute an absence. Please email me if you expect to be late or miss class.

ELASTICITY STATEMENT: The instructor will make every effort to follow the guidelines of this syllabus as listed; however, the instructor reserves the right to amend this document as the need arises. In such instances, the instructor will notify students in class and/or via email and will endeavor to provide reasonable time for students to adjust to any changes.

Emergency Contact Information: UA's primary communication tool for sending out information is through its web site at www.ua.edu. In the event of an emergency, students should consult this site for further directions. Additional course information will be posted using Blackboard Learn.

Severe Weather Guidelines: The guiding principle at The University of Alabama is to promote the personal safety of our students, faculty and staff during severe weather events. It is impossible to develop policies which anticipate every weather-related emergency. These guidelines are intended to provide additional assistance for responding to severe weather on campus.

UA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general, classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life-saving actions. When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the National Weather Service and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take.

The Office of University Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:

Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage

Weather advisory sent out through UA Alerts to faculty, staff and students

Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM

Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM

Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA-TV/WUOA-TV, and on the website at <http://wvuatv.com/content/weather>.

WVUA-TV Home Team Weather provides a free service you can subscribe to which allows you to receive weather warnings for Tuscaloosa via e-mail or cell phone. Check <http://wvuatv.com/content/free-email-weather-alerts> for more details and to sign up for weather alerts.

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar; sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

Disability Statement: If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary. If you have a disability, but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call (205) 348-4285 (Voice) or (205) 348-3081 (TTY) or visit 133-B Martha Parham Hall East to register for services. Students who may need course adaptations because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, 133-B Martha Parham Hall East, before receiving academic adjustments.

Policy on Academic Misconduct: All students in attendance at The University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University of Alabama expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. At the beginning of each semester and on examinations and projects, the professor, department, or division may require that each student sign the following Academic Honor Pledge: "I promise or affirm that I will not at any time be involved with cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or misrepresentation while enrolled as a student at The University of Alabama." Please see <http://catalogs.ua.edu/undergraduate/10480.html> for academic misconduct policy.