

THTR 1561 - Stagecraft

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 43857,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Todd Dicken

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Senior Lecturer

Instructor Professional Qualifications: MFA, Theatre, Scenic Design, Kent State University, 1998. BA Speech Communication with Theater Emphasis, Youngstown State University, 1988

Instructor Office Location: Bliss Hall Room 1246

Instructor Office Phone: 330-941-1857

Course Description

1561. Stagecraft. The technical elements of play production, with emphasis on stage mechanics, set construction, and scene painting. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	AT-A-GLANCE Academic 2026-2027 Weekly Monthly Appointment Book Planner, Black, 8.5" x 11"	-NA-	
Optional	Backstage Handbook: An Illustrated Almanac of Technical Information	Paul Carter	

Your planner will be turned in for grading. Therefore, phone, laptop, or tablet apps are not viable substitutes for this personal academic planner. *It is also required for THTR 3701 Professional Prep, and THTR 3768 Script Analysis for Stage and Screen. One planner will work for all three classes.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Day	Date	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
Mon	8/24	Intro to class. Scene Shop & Ford Theater Operations.	
Wed	8/26	Safety Training in Theaters	
Mon	8/31	Tool Training in Scene Shop	
Wed	9/2	Tool Training, cont.	
Mon	9/7	-University Closed-	
Wed	9/9	Counterweight System (in Ford Theater)	
Mon	9/14	Counterweight System, cont. Planner Check #1.	
Wed	9/16	Measuring and Marking for construction.	
Mon	9/21	Dimensions of Materials, Platforms, and the Math.	
Wed	9/23	Test #1.	
Mon	9/28	Tape measure to the Rescue!	



Wed	9/30	Scale and Drafting Tools.
Mon	10/5	Drafting Tools, Symbols and Conventions.
Wed	10/7	Drafting, cont.
Mon	10/12	Load-Bearing Construction.
Wed	10/14	Stage Hardware. Planner Check #2.
Mon	10/19	Building Scenery "Stock Units", Wood Joinery
Wed	10/21	Stage Rigging.
Mon	10/26	Stage Rigging, cont.
Wed	10/28	Test #2.
Mon	11/2	Soft Materials.
Wed	11/4	Special Effects.
Mon	11/9	Special Effects, cont.
Wed	11/11	-University Closed-
Mon	11/16	Scenic Paints and Techniques
Wed	11/18	Paint (in Scene Shop)
Mon	11/23	Theatrical Properties
Wed	11/25	YSU Open, No Classes.
Mon	11/30	Props, cont.
Wed	12/2	Doors, Windows, Fireplaces onstage.
Mon	12/7	Final Exam: 1:00-3:00PM.

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.