

STAGE LIGHTING DRAMA 16

INSTRUCTOR: Rychard Curtiss

OFFICE: Lowe 215

OFFICE HOURS: M/W 11:20am-12:45pm. TU/TH by appointment only

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Lowe #201 – TU/TH 11:20-12:45am

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course will present fundamental information on the materials, techniques, and strategies utilized in lighting a stage production. This will encompass theoretical as well as practical exercises. You will also be given information on how to develop a sense of lighting aesthetic and the ability to observe the light around us in terms of its theatricality.

TEXT:

Required: Designing with Light: An introduction to Stage Lighting - Gillette

Required: The Assigned Play – *Deathtrap* by Ira Levin

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:

45° / 90° triangle

30° / 60° triangle

Architects rule

Various software detailed in class

Attendance:

Attendance is required. Students are granted a maximum of four (4) absences without any impact on their grade. A fifth (5th) absence will result in an automatic grade of F for the course.

There are no excused absences, except for absences due to recognized religious holidays and official department functions.

Lateness: Students will be considered late if they arrive after the class has started but within ten minutes of the official class start time. Each instance of lateness will count as ½ an absence. Any arrival beyond 10 minutes will be regarded as an absence. The instructor may choose not to admit students into the class after 10 minutes have elapsed.

Information about Campus Closures/Snow Day; Class Attendance; Academic Integrity; Disability Accommodations; Resources for Students who are Pregnant; Temporary Adjustments/Academic Leave of Absence; Absences for Religious Observance; University Deadlines; Grading Policy and Deadlines; and Discriminatory, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct is available on the Provost's webpage at the link below:

<https://www.hofstra.edu/provost/policies-syllabi-students.html>

MIDTERM EXAM (3/13-3/15/2026) note: week before spring break

FINAL EXAM (completed by 12:30pm 5/12/2026)

Exams/Quizzes will be given on Canvas.

GRADING:

Lighting Observations/Photo Collection - 10% / Quizzes – 12% / Show Reviews – 10% / Light Lab Projects – 10% / Angle Project – 8% / Design Project – 20% / Exams – 20%

Class Participation – 10%

OVERVIEW OF ASSIGNMENTS:

(Note - Due dates are noted on drama16.info or assigned in class. Work will NOT be accepted late. These projects involve various uses of technology; you are responsible for making sure that the technology you use will not be a barrier to complete or turn in projects on time.)

LIGHT OBSERVATIONS/PHOTO COLLECTION BLOG: Each Friday you will turn in 1 observation of a lighting moment in the world around you. Each Thursday you will turn in 1 photo. The photos can be collected from magazines, books, and newspapers, internet, etc. The type of photo selected will be based upon criteria set forth in class; the photos will be documented with an Angle/Color sheet (to be explained in class) and a brief write up (typically a paragraph or 2). You should be prepared to discuss your photo in class, that day. Further explanation will be given in class.

QUIZZES: There will be short (5-15 questions) quizzes based on the reading assignments and lectures. These will be announced in class and taken on Canvas.

LIGHTING REVIEWS: You will write a short (3-5 page) review of 2 selected productions (assigned in class). These will pay special attention to the lighting aspects of the production in addition to how lighting relates to the other aspects of the production as a whole.

LIGHT LAB PROJECTS: You will work with light lab software and in the Drama Lighting Lab to help visually understand lighting concepts discussed in class. Specific projects will be assigned in class.

ANGLE PROJECT: This project will help you understand part of the process that a Lighting Designer uses to plot a design. This will deal with the mechanics of lighting a show. This will be on a handout explained in class.

DESIGN PROJECT: This will be an ongoing and cumulative assignment throughout the semester, which will merge the mechanics and aesthetics of a lighting design. The assignment will combine the reading of the play, a written SCRIPT ANALYSIS, written LIGHTING CONCEPT, ANGLE/COLOR sheet, a drafted LIGHT PLOT, and associated paperwork.