

Drama 419: Stage Lighting Design
Instructor: Geoff Korf (gkorf@uw.edu)

Advanced Stage Lighting Design is a three-quarter sequence as described below:

Autumn:

In the Autumn quarter, each student will be led through the basic steps necessary to generate a complete lighting plot and hook-up for a stage production. The fall class will include practical assignments (in the Penthouse Theatre,) some discussion of plays, lighting observations, as well as attendance and discussion of actual productions. There will also be specific assignments related to making a light plot. Please keep all your original work and blueprint or photocopy the work that you turn in. Worksheets, which will begin halfway through the quarter, do not need to be copied. The class emphasizes open discussion, analysis, and participation in class.

In the autumn quarter, there will be 2 practical assignments where you will be asked to reproduce light in the Penthouse. In these practical assignments you will be in groups of 2 or 3. These are to be prepared outside of the scheduled class time, but will be viewed and discussed by the whole class during class time. Each student will need their own adjustable wrench to carry out these assignments. Because of the multiple uses of the theatre the available time to hang your projects will be fairly restricted. You will be required to commit one week in advance to a specific period of time.

You will also be asked to turn in five one-page descriptions of some lighting phenomenon. (Observations) These observations should be taken from some real world phenomena, not a theatrical or reproduced idea of light. In most cases, I will be specific about what kind of light you are to observe; in other cases, what you look at will be at your discretion. These observations primarily serve two purposes: First to get you in the habit of looking at light consciously in everyday settings, and secondly to refine your skills in describing lighting to others. You are asked to observe carefully and write in detail about such things as the light's intensity, color, quality, and sharpness as well as about the nature of the shadow's the light casts. It is very important that you write the observation WHILE you are looking at the light. (In the present moment.) Do NOT try to REMEMBER something you saw in the past. (Even just moments in the past.)

2-3 times in the quarter, you will also be expected to read, and to participate in a discussion of a play. This discussion will be centered around the dramatic action of the play, as well as how one might approach it scenographically.

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Winter:

While the autumn quarter will focus mainly on skills and techniques involved in the creation of light plots, the winter quarter is intended to focus more deeply on the conceptual thinking process involved in that creation.

In the winter, there will be two more paper projects where each student will design a light plot for a previously produced production.

Spring:

The main focus of the spring quarter will be practical, live, lighting projects typically in the Light Lab, or Playhouse or Penthouse Theatre. Students will work in groups to solve a new practical assignment each week. Typically there are additional students that join the class for the Spring Quarter.

Lighting Critiques:

In addition to the above, each student will be expected to attend the lighting critiques of the Drama School Productions.

Grading:

The grade for the class is based primarily on participation in the class and performance in the assignments. That the projects and assignments are turned in carefully considered, complete, and on time is likely to have a more significant effect on each student's grade than the artistic merit of those assignments.

If you know you will need to miss a class, please discuss it with me in advance.

If you miss three or more class sessions in a quarter, you will probably receive a grade of 0.0 for that quarter.