



# THR 818: DESIGN STUDIO

Methodologies and principles of varying design styles and periods.

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## COURSE SYLLABUS (SECTION 001)

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**Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:20am-12:10pm | AUD 244**

Zoom Link to use as needed: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/95744324394>  
Passcode: Studio

Meeting ID: 957 4432 4394

## DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

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**Methodologies and principles of varying design styles and periods. Practical application through area specified design. Application to selected dramatic texts.**

The purpose of this course is to develop the artistic and practical aspects of designing for theatre in the student's area of focus, with emphasis on conceptual thinking and the creative process of theatre-making. The course also prepares students to present and discuss their work, as they will do in a professional situation. In order to develop skills and materials that the designer will use to establish and promote a career, students will also explore various practices in budgeting, preparing rental packages, royalty acquisition, industry pitches, etc.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

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**Design Studio integrates methodologies and principles of varying design styles and periods through practical application. Students will:**

- Conceive and research design projects.
- Improve research methods through the exploration of various historical genres and theatrical styles.
- Organize and translate conceptual work into practical applications.
- Communicate ideas through a variety of design media.
- Manage time effectively and efficiently.
- Develop an understanding of presentation standards; present preliminary, process, and finished work in a clear, professional manner.
- Improve communication skills, especially as they relate to design ideas and creative aesthetics.
- Develop familiarity with historical genres and theatrical styles as well as their attendant stagecraft.
- Improve critical assessment skills as they relate to the evaluation of your working process.
- Explore and understand production budgets and how they impact creativity and ingenuity.

**To achieve these course objectives, we have arranged a series of projects:**

Each phase of a project's process will be discussed and critiqued in class. Your participation in these discussions is essential and will be part of each project's evaluation. Please do your best to attend all class sessions. Portions of each project are due prior to the completion date. You will find it easy to complete these projects if you keep up with the weekly schedule of project progress. At certain project phases, you will be asked to give formal and informal presentations of your work.

## REQUIRED TEXTS, VIDEOS, AND SOUNDTRACKS (PROVIDED BY INSTRUCTORS)

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- Fletcher, Lucille, *The Hitchhiker*
- Gluck, Christoph Willibald, *Orfeo ed Euridice*
- Ruhl, Sarah, *Eurydice*
- Sahin, Selda and Derek Gregor; Conceived with Autumn Reeser, *Particle*
- \*Final Show to be determined by THR 801 class

## STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

**This course is about effective communication and creative design thinking. It is expected that students will remain respectful and receptive to alternate ideas.**

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignments / Materials
<b>1</b>	9/2	<b>INTRO:</b> Syllabus and Course Expectations <b>DISCUSS:</b> Famous Designer Presentations and Design Challenges	READ: <i>Particle</i>
<b>2</b>	9/7	<b>DISCUSS:</b> <i>Particle</i> <b>DESIGN CHALLENGE I:</b> Announcement	***Bring Design Supplies to Class***
	9/9	<b>DESIGN CHALLENGE I:</b> Presentation	
<b>3</b>	9/14	<i>Particle</i> Design Meeting with ĩmáGen Team <b>PRESENT:</b> Research & Prelim Design Ideas	<u>ĩmáGen Team:</u> Selda Sahin and Derek Gregor (writers) Autumn Reeser (director)
	9/16	<i>Particle</i> Prod. Meeting with ĩmáGen Team <b>PRESENT:</b> Updated Research & Design Sketches/Concepts	<u>OPTIONAL:</u> Andrew Buck Alumni Discussion w/ THR 492 in Studio 60 on Friday 9/17, 10:20a-12:10p
<b>4</b>	9/21	<i>Particle</i> Prod. Meeting with ĩmáGen Team <b>PRESENT:</b> Updated Design Sketches/Concepts	<u>OPTIONAL:</u> ĩmáGen Roundtable w/ THR 492 in Studio 60 on Friday 9/24, 10:20a-12:10p
	9/23	<i>Particle</i> Prod. Meeting with ĩmáGen Team <b>PRESENT:</b> Final Design Sketches/Concepts	LISTEN: <i>The Hitchhiker</i> : <a href="https://youtu.be/fU-w0FLMcWE">https://youtu.be/fU-w0FLMcWE</a>
<b>5</b>	9/28	<b>NUNN-SENSE (KIRK IN HOUSTON)</b> <b>DISCUSS:</b> <i>The Hitchhiker</i> <b>TRAINING:</b> Audio Adventure	
	9/30	<b>NUNN-SENSE (KIRK IN HOUSTON)</b> <b>PRESENT:</b> <i>The Hitchhiker</i> Research & Prelim Designs	
<b>6</b>	10/5	<b>10:00a-11:00a Houston Arts Zoom</b> <b>NUNN-SENSE (KIRK IN HOUSTON)</b> <b>TRAINING:</b> Audio Adventure	<u>Join Zoom Meeting:</u> <a href="https://msu.zoom.us/j/99257377243">https://msu.zoom.us/j/99257377243</a> (no password)
	10/7	<b>NUNN-SENSE (KIRK IN HOUSTON)</b> <b>TRAINING:</b> Audio Adventure <b>AH-HA ROUNDTABLE:</b> <i>The Hitchhiker</i> Genius Thoughts	
<b>7</b>	10/12	<b>PRESENT:</b> <i>The Hitchhiker</i> Final Designs with Audio Adventure Underscore	READ: <i>Eurydice</i> LISTEN/WATCH: <i>Orfeo ed Euridice</i> (Alexander Street: Met Opera on Demand)
	10/14	<b>DISCUSS:</b> <i>Eurydice</i> and <i>Orfeo ed Euridice</i> <b>INDUSTRY PITCH:</b> 4-minutes pitches	

<b>8</b>	10/19	<b>DESIGN CHALLENGE II:</b> One-Day Activity	***Bring Design Supplies to Class***
	10/21	<b>UNDERWORLD PITCH:</b> <i>Eurydice</i> and <i>Orfeo ed Euridice</i> 5-minute pitches + 3-minute roundtable	
<b>9</b>	10/26	<b>FALL BREAK - NO CLASS</b>	
	10/28	<b>PRESENT:</b> <i>Eurydice</i> and <i>Orfeo ed Euridice</i> Design Updates	READ: <i>Final Show TBD</i>
<b>10</b>	11/2	<b>DISCUSS:</b> <i>Final Show TBD</i> <i>Final Show TBD</i> Design Meeting with guest director, Rob Roznowski (11:10a-12:10p)	
	11/4	<b>DESIGN CHALLENGE III:</b> Announcement <b>PRESENT:</b> Famous Designers Round I	***Bring Design Supplies to Class*** FD: Arnett & Saenz
<b>11</b>	11/9	<b>PRESENT:</b> <i>Eurydice</i> and <i>Orfeo ed Euridice</i> Final Design Presentations	
	11/11	<b>PRESENT:</b> <i>Final Show TBD</i> Research & Prelim Design Ideas	
<b>12</b>	11/16	<b>INDUSTRY PITCH:</b> Final Presentations	
	11/18	<b>ROUNDTABLE:</b> <i>Final Show TBD</i> Open Discussion <b>PRESENT:</b> Famous Designers Round II	FD: Castillo & Pearce
<b>13</b>	11/23	<b>DESIGN CHALLENGE III:</b> Presentation	
	11/25	<b>THANKSGIVING - NO CLASS</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING - NO CLASS</b>
<b>14</b>	11/30	<b>PRESENT:</b> <i>Final Show TBD</i> Design Updates	
	12/2	<b>PRESENT:</b> Famous Designers Round III	FD: Casella, Legge, Jahani & Meyers
<b>15</b>	12/7	<b>PRESENT:</b> <i>Final Show TBD</i> (semi)Final Presentation	
	12/9	<b>COURSE WRAP-UP</b>	
<b>*FNL</b>	12/13	<b>Final Show TBD Exhibition before MFA Actors' Performance</b>	DESIGN SHOWCASE: Room 12 (6-7p) ACTING PERFORMANCE: Arena Theatre (7p)

*\*Note: This exhibition will replace your final. We will not be meeting during our scheduled final exam time.*

## COURSE EVALUATION

### Procedures for Accomplishing Objectives:

- Thoughtful and creative completion of class assignments.
- Applied understanding of the terms and theory covered in readings, presentations, and classroom discussions.

### Requirements of Students:

- Respect, support, and encouragement of classmates through active participation in classroom discourse.

- Late assignments will be accepted based on open communication from the student prior to the assignment's target submission date.
- Successful completion of all assignments.

## GRADING BREAKDOWN

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**There are a total of 100 points possible.**

Your overall grade is evaluated on five criteria: participation, application of materials, quality of work, completion of work, and overall portfolio. Your final semester grade will be based on whether you have met expectations appropriate to your area and level of design communication. Late work will devalue relative to the severity and cause of the lateness. Academic dishonesty will result in a course grade of 0.0.

• <i>Particle</i>	15 Points
• <i>The Hitchhiker</i>	10 Points
• <i>Eurydice</i>	15 Points
• <i>Orfeo ed Euridice</i>	10 Points
• TBD Show by THR 801 class	15 Points
• Famous Designer Presentation	5 Points
• Industry Pitch	10 Points
• Design Challenges I, II, & III	15 Points
• Designer Growth	5 Points

## GRADING SCALE

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• 93 – 100 = 4.0	• 78 – 82 = 2.5	• 60 – 67 = 1.0
• 88 – 92 = 3.5	• 73 – 77 = 2.0	• Below 60 = 0.0
• 83 – 87 = 3.0	• 68 – 72 = 1.5	

## ATTENDANCE

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**Being present and receptive to the information, discussions, and critiques presented during class sessions is essential to complete the course successfully.**

- Attendance will be taken at each session. Please be courteous to your instructors and fellow students by arriving on time. There is no grade penalty for missed classes. However, you will miss out on the essential critique necessary to help you develop as a theatre designer.
- University-sanctioned activities and religious holidays are understood with appropriate documentation before the event. If documentation concerning an absence due to an unforeseen life circumstance is provided, please alert your instructors. For absences related to personal loss, please refer to the MSU Grief Absence Policy.

## COURSE MATERIALS & TECHNOLOGY

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**All readings, videos, audio recordings, and artwork are provided on D2L.**

- The technology used in this course through D2L will require access to some of the following sites: YouTube, Spotify, Ted.Com, Vimeo, and similar sites.
- Students may submit assignments in the various platforms (preferably doc/x, .pdf, .ppt/x, .jpg, .png, prezi, mp3, .mov, .mp4, or .wav). Specific submissions details are noted in each project description.
- Audio and Video projects may be posted and unlisted on YouTube or Vimeo, or another video sharing site and marked as unlisted. A link to the project may be posted in the dropbox or discussion forum.

- Issues with access and other larger questions should be directed to the D2L helpline through MSU Distance Learning Services:
  - East Lansing area: (517) 432-6200
  - Toll-Free: (844) 678-6200 (North America and Hawaii)
  - Web: [help.d2l.msu.edu](https://help.d2l.msu.edu)

## STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

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College students often experience issues that may interfere with academic success such as academic stress, sleep problems, juggling responsibilities, life events, relationship concerns, or feelings of anxiety, hopelessness, or depression. If you or a friend is struggling, we strongly encourage you to seek support. Helpful, effective resources are available on campus, and most are free of charge.

- If you are struggling with this class, please check-in during my student success hours or contact me by email at [domer@msu.edu](mailto:domer@msu.edu).
- Check-in with your graduate guidance committee chairperson if you are struggling in multiple classes, unsure whether you are making the most of your time at MSU, or unsure what academic resources are available at MSU.
- Access CAPS Services for new counseling and psychiatric services by making a [CAPS Phone Request](#).
- CAPS is providing remote crisis services 24/7/365. Students can call 517-355-8270 and press "1" at the prompt to speak with a crisis counselor. Other prompt options are available for those not in crisis.
- Visit <https://caps.msu.edu> for additional information and resources.

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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Students are expected to adhere to the policies of Michigan State University whether noted in this syllabus or not. Instructors have the right to add or adjust policies within limits for the specifics of their courses. While the below may appear at first glance to be common policy boilerplate there may be nuances or course specifics within it that the student must be aware of and adhere to.

**Please review the following policies, statements, and resources for students:**

- [Spartan Code of Honor](#)
- [Mental Health](#)
- [Religious Observance Policy](#)
- [Student Athletes](#)
- [Pronoun preference](#)

### **Commit to Integrity: Academic Honesty**

Article 2.III.B.2 of the [Academic Rights and Responsibilities](#) states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the **Center for Integrative Studies - Arts and Humanities** adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in [General Student Regulations](#) 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations. See [Spartan Life Online](#) ([splife.studentlife.msu.edu](https://splife.studentlife.msu.edu)) and/or the [MSU Web site](#) ([msu.edu](https://msu.edu)) for more.

Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the [www.allmsu.com](https://www.allmsu.com) Web site to complete any course work in this course. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also the [Academic Integrity webpage](#).)

## Limits to Confidentiality

Essays, journals, and other materials submitted for this class are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University's student record policies. However, students should be aware that University employees, including instructors, may not be able to maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues to protect the health and safety of MSU community members and others. As the instructor, I must report the following information to other University offices (including the Department of Police and Public Safety) if you share it with me:

- Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when you were a child,
- Allegations of sexual assault or sexual harassment when they involve MSU students, faculty, or staff, and
- Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others.

These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In almost all cases, it will be your decision whether you wish to speak with that individual. If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting you are encouraged to make an appointment with the MSU Counseling Center.

## Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed

[From the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities](#) (RCPD): Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at [rcpd.msu.edu](http://rcpd.msu.edu). Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a Verified Individual Services Accommodation ("VISA") form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

## Drops and Adds

The last day to add this course is the end of the first week of classes. The last day to drop this course with a 100 percent refund and no grade reported is **9/8/2021**. The last day to drop this course with no refund and no grade reported is **9/27/2021**. You should immediately make a copy of your amended schedule to verify you have added or dropped this course.

## Commercialized Lecture Notes

Commercialization of lecture notes and university-provided course materials is *not permitted* in this course.\*

\*Note: The Code of Teaching Responsibility requires instructors who permit students to commercialize their class lecture notes to include a statement in their course syllabi that gives such permission. Absent such permission, students may not do so.

## Internet

Some professional journals will not consider a submission for publication if the article has appeared on the Internet. Please notify your instructor in writing if you do not want your course papers posted to the course Web site.

## Disruptive Behavior

Article 2.III.B.4 of [Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) for students at Michigan State University states: "The student's behavior in the classroom shall be conducive to the teaching and learning process for all concerned." Article 2.III.B.10 states that "The student and the faculty share the responsibility for maintaining professional relationships based on mutual trust and civility." [General Student Regulation 5.02](#) states: "No student shall . . . obstruct, disrupt, or interfere with the functions, services, or directives of the University, its offices, or its employees (e.g., classes, social, cultural, and athletic events, computing services, registration, housing and food services, governance meetings, and hearings)." Students whose conduct adversely affects the learning environment may be subject to disciplinary action through the Student Judicial Affairs office.

## COVID ACCOMMODATIONS

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For your safety and the safety of those around you, please follow CDC guidance to [self-isolate or stay home](#) if you experience COVID-19 [symptoms](#), test positive for COVID-19, or have been potentially [exposed](#) to someone with COVID-19. Accommodations will be made so that this quarantine will not harm your performance or put you at a disadvantage in this course.

Almost all of us are struggling with a unique set of challenges these days, brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, economic fallout, ongoing efforts for social justice, and other experiences. While I am not a trained mental health professional, I am someone you can reach out to if you're struggling, whether your concerns pertain directly to this course. Our conversations will be confidential, though please remember that all faculty at MSU are mandatory reporters if issues of violence, sexual harm, or harassment are disclosed. I'm a good listener, and I can help connect you to campus and other resources that are here to help you. As your course instructor, I am committed to helping you successfully complete this course, but it's even more important to me that you experience our virtual classroom as a space that is open, inclusive, and supportive.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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Resource	Link
The Writing Center	<a href="http://writing.msu.edu">http://writing.msu.edu</a>
Libraries	<a href="http://www.lib.msu.edu">www.lib.msu.edu</a>
MSU IT Service Desk	<a href="http://www.tech.msu.edu/support">www.tech.msu.edu/support</a>
D2L Help	<a href="https://help.d2l.msu.edu">https://help.d2l.msu.edu</a>
Neighborhood Student Success Collaborative (NSSC)	<a href="https://nssc.msu.edu/engagement/">https://nssc.msu.edu/engagement/</a>
Office for International Students and Scholars	<a href="https://oiss.isp.msu.edu/">https://oiss.isp.msu.edu/</a>
Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities	<a href="http://rcpd.msu.edu">http://rcpd.msu.edu</a>
MSU Counseling Center	<a href="http://www.counseling.msu.edu">www.counseling.msu.edu</a>
English Language Center	<a href="http://www.elc.msu.edu">www.elc.msu.edu</a>
Sexual Assault Program	<a href="http://endrape.msu.edu/">http://endrape.msu.edu/</a>
MSU Food Bank	<a href="http://foodbank.msu.edu/">http://foodbank.msu.edu/</a>
MSU Safe Place	<a href="http://safeplace.msu.edu/">http://safeplace.msu.edu/</a>