DRAM-4191 (Independent study - Props)

**LOCATION:** Props Shop/Flex Theatre

**TIMES:** Scheduled as needed

**Instructor:** Ben Kramer (He/Him/His) [Ben, Mr. Kramer or Mr. K ]

Office: GFNA 229

Email: Benjamin.Kramer@sfasu.edu

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 12:00PM-2:00PM

**Email Communications:** Unless issues are extremely time sensitive I will do my best to respond to all student emails during the next business day.

**Objective:** The course is meant to provide a brief functional overview of the technical aspects of theatre and provide a basic level of familiarity with tools and hardware one may encounter while working in a professional setting. It is also meant to broaden the viewpoints of other artists who are primarily performers.

**Program Learning Outcomes:**

**BA/BA-TC/BFA:** Students will gain skills and knowledge of common paperwork and practices involved in supervising a small props team and facilitating the props for a full scale production.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

OVERALL: Projects will be assessed on adherence to the directions and proof of understanding the concepts discussed. The grade will be determined by the clarity of and completeness of the prop Bible

Students will gain...

1.) ...Skills in paperwork generation and maintenance.

2.) ...Research in development of safe special effects approaches.

3.) ...project delegation to other team members.

**SHOP ATTIRE:**

- Comfortable Clothes to move and work in. Heels, sandals, dresses, skirts, & swim wear are not appropriate shop/load-in attire.

- Most standard glasses are not impact rated. Unless you can prove it, eye protection is required even if you wear glasses.

- Nothing loose that could get caught in a tool

- Jewelry is not allowed for the most part, as it usually creates a safety hazard. Nothing can be worn on the wrists or hands.
  - Studs are permitted.
  - Silicone bands can be worn in place of a ring as they will tear without injuring the hand.
  - If you have recent piercings that you aren’t supposed to removed before so-many-days, do not come to the shop that day.

- If hair can be tied up/back it should be.

- Try not to stink.

- CLOSED TOED SHOES.
  - Showing up in bad shoes will prohibit you from entering the shop. You will be sent home.
All shop rules also apply to working in theater spaces not only in the shops.

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

- For the most part SFA will provide required PPE.
  - You may want your own hard-hat and gloves if you are a sweaty person or simply working elsewhere frequently.
  - From the moment you enter the shop you should have safety glasses and ear plugs on your person.
  - From the moment you walk on stage you should have a hard hat on unless no one is working overhead.
  - Continuously not wearing protective equipment will affect your final grade in the class.
  - If you aren’t comfortable with a tool at all… say so.
  - Misuse of tools for unapproved activities such as shooting anything will cause you to be banned from the shop and thus fail the course.

**REQUIRED TEXT:**
- None

**COURSE CONTENT:**
- Assembly of shadow props
- Assembly of Production prop bible including:
  - Cast Allergies list
  - Complete Props list
  - Cost analysis
  - Status sheet
  - Consumables Break down
  - Preset check list (work with Stage management)
- Tech rehearsal Adjustments
- Crew training
- Special effects props needs and safety procedures.

**TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM:**
- During any classroom discussions or demonstrations laptops and tablets should remain off.
- Phones can be used to record demonstrated techniques or to photograph your work. In all cases phones should remain silenced and kept in a safe place unless being used as noted previously.
  - If some circumstance arises that you must make or receive a phone call during class I ask that you step outside the room handle that business as quickly as possible.
- On classroom work days you may bring headphones/earbuds to listen music while you work. If I can hear the music on your headphones/earbuds while standing next to you it’s too loud. Music must not be so loud that I cannot get your attention while speaking at a normal volume.
- Please Take photos of your work and process. However, post your photos to social media on your own time.
- Abuse of these rules will result in a class wide ban. So don’t ruin it for everyone.
**Attendance policy:**
This is a project based course and largely time are managed by the student. When a project is complete notify the instructor so they can schedule a time to assess your work so far and/or provide directions for the next project.

**Course Evaluations:** You will be asked to log your online course evaluation at the end of the semester. Non-completion of this evaluation will not effect your grade but it is one of the best ways I have of getting feedback to improve my course. Instructions and further information will be given nearer to that time.

**Diversity and Inclusion Statement:** This class may engage in material covering a diverse range of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, and disability. While I encourage you to formulate and express your thoughts and opinions throughout the semester, discriminatory remarks will not be tolerated and may constitute disruptive behavior under the student code of conduct.

**Respect:** This is an art form. Each and every person will have different things they excel at. There will be days where we openly discuss the work you and your fellow students have created. Hurtful and disrespectful remarks during class discussions of others works will not be tolerated. Not everyone is cut out to be a carpenter.

**Mental Health**

**Working in theatre shops:** While we all have issues in our personal lives I ask that you leave personal issues at the door. Shows have to get built and drama doesn’t make that happen. Nor do we want drama while adults have powerful tools in their hands. If something is troubling you so much that you cannot work around a specific person/people talk to me so I can get you in touch with campus resources.

If some major traumatic event has happened (death or serious hospitalization of immediate family members, death of roommate, major diagnosis, home break-in or assault of some kind) that may be mentally distracting, talk with me privately so we can agree on a plan so you can have time to deal with the events and still complete the course requirements.

**University mental health resources:**
SFASU values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support student’s mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**
SFASU Counseling Services • [www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices](http://www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices)
Health and Wellness Hub (corner of E. College and Raguet) • 936-468-2401
SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic • [www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp)
Human Services Room 202 • 936-468-1041

**Crisis Resources:**
Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343
Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar
year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.