

**THAR 127.2 Course Outline as of Fall 2021****CATALOG INFORMATION**

Dept and Nbr: THAR 127.2 Title: PROPS WKSHP MOLDS/CASTS

Full Title: Properties Workshop: Mold Making and Casting

Last Reviewed: 4/26/2021

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	2.00	Lecture Scheduled	1.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	17.50
Minimum	2.00	Lab Scheduled	3.00	8	Lab Scheduled	52.50
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	4.00		Contact Total	70.00
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 35.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 105.00

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade Only

Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

Also Listed As:

Formerly:

**Catalog Description:**

This course provides intermediate instruction in the skills involved in the design, coordination, and construction of stage properties (commonly called props), with a focus on theatrical mold making and casting skills. Students will work on focus-related projects, as well as properties for SRJC productions.

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:**

Course Completion of THAR 27

**Recommended Preparation:****Limits on Enrollment:****Schedule of Classes Information:**

Description: This course provides intermediate instruction in the skills involved in the design, coordination, and construction of stage properties (commonly called props), with a focus on theatrical mold making and casting skills. Students will work on focus-related projects, as well as properties for SRJC productions. (Grade Only)

Prerequisites/Corequisites: Course Completion of THAR 27

Recommended:  
Limits on Enrollment:  
Transfer Credit:  
Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

## **ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:**

<b>AS Degree:</b>	<b>Area</b>	Effective:	Inactive:
<b>CSU GE:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>	Effective:	Inactive:
<b>IGETC:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>	Effective:	Inactive:
<b>CSU Transfer:</b>		Effective:	Inactive:
<b>UC Transfer:</b>		Effective:	Inactive:

**CID:**

**Certificate/Major Applicable:**

Certificate Applicable Course

## **COURSE CONTENT**

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Conceptualize and safely apply a variety of mold making and casting techniques in the construction of properties used for stage and camera productions.

**Objectives:**

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Read and analyze a script with respect to historical period and style, focusing on the mold making and casting requirements for a production.
2. Conduct and apply historical and stylistic research in the conceptualization of a prop design, noting factors relating to objects replicated through mold making or casting.
3. Identify the characteristics of different types of mold making and casting materials, and their applications.
4. Demonstrate creative problem solving in prop designing, including finding resources, adaption, and working within a budget.
5. Develop strategies for replicating objects using mold making or casting for a production.
6. Work collaboratively and communicate with a design and directorial team.
7. Formulate a plan for the protection and maintenance of properties created using molds and/or casting for the run of a show.
8. Utilize a variety of finishing materials and techniques, applying them to objects made from molds and/or casting.
9. Apply safety procedures for the handling and storage of tools and materials used in mold making and casting for a theatrical production.
10. Mentor beginning students in mold making and casting techniques.

**Topics and Scope:**

Properties Overview Topics:

## I. Introduction

- A. Define stage properties, props master, props manager and props organization
- B. Introduction to historical styles

## II. Safety and Standards of Professionalism

- A. Shop safety
- B. Safe use of materials and equipment
- C. Explanation of MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets)
- D. The importance of protective clothing and masks
- E. Other standards of professionalism

## III. Script Analysis and Strategizing for an Assigned Play

- A. Evaluation of props requirements of an assigned play
- B. Strategizing which props can be bought, pulled from stock, or built
- C. Consideration of the play's period and socioeconomic situation in relation to props
- D. Consideration of the play's style, such as realism vs. fantasy

## IV. Research

- A. Investigate sources of historical information
- B. Discuss and investigate creative nontraditional research approaches

## V. Purchasing

- A. Budgeting
- B. Buying props
- C. Researching sources

## VI. Managing Props in Production

- A. Organization and placement
- B. Tracking
- C. Inventory and maintenance
- D. Working with actors

## VII. Working with Stock Props [Primarily Lecture]

- A. SRJC Base stock and users
- B. Considerations before making changes to stock props
  - 1. Use
    - a. How often is stock item used?
    - b. How likely is item to be used in current condition?
  - 2. Condition of item
    - a. Is item in need of repair?
    - b. Is item usable in current condition?
    - c. Will changes improve, sustain, or diminish item's quality?
  - 3. Value
    - a. How much would it cost to replace item?
    - b. How feasible is it to replace item (age, rarity, etc.)?
  - 4. Durability and "Lifespan"
    - a. Will changes withstand production demands over time?
    - b. Do changes increase or reduce longevity of item's use?
- C. Repurposing stock props
  - 1. Temporary vs permanent changes
  - 2. Where will item be stored in stock after changes?

## Workshop Focus Topics:

## I. Painting concepts and techniques

- A. Color theory
  - 1. How color works

- 2. Paints and pigments
    - 3. Mixing color
    - 4. Color wheel
  - B. Techniques
    - 1. Highlight and shadow
    - 2. Glazing and surface qualities of props
  - C. Painting different surfaces
- II. Mold Making
- A. Historic techniques of mold making
  - B. Types of molds
  - C. Mold making tools, materials and resources
  - D. Safety concerns
- III. Casting
- A. Overview of casting techniques
  - B. Casting tools, materials and resources
  - C. Safety concerns
- IV. Related Skills for Mold Making and Casting Projects
- A. Sculpting
    - 1. Materials
    - 2. Tools
  - B. Foam carving
    - 1. Safe use of tools and materials
    - 2. Carving techniques
    - 3. Finishing techniques
  - C. New developments, including 3-D printing
- V. Methods for assisting peers
- A. Mold making
  - B. Casting techniques

Unless specifically noted above, all topics are covered in both the lecture and lab portions of the course.

**Assignment:**

THAR 127.2 students will attend class with THAR 27 students and participate in class activities relating to the properties requirements for the semester's productions. However, the following assignments will focus primarily on developing skills relating to mold making and casting.

Homework and class assignments:

- 1. Read 5-10 pages of the required material per week.
- 2. Quiz(zes): One or more quizzes on assigned reading and/or safety issues
- 3. Read, analyze, and research 2-3 assigned plays from a property designer's viewpoint. Scripts will include 2 SRJC productions for the current semester; instructor may select 1-2 additional scripts for class discussion and exercises. With each script, the student will:

- A. Identify required and potential props, focusing on mold making and casting.
  - B. Develop a props list, scene by scene.
  - C. Identify the period and style of each play.
  - D. Research and collect visual images representing the period of the play.
  - E. Research the identified props within the play's period, providing images/sketches.
4. Design Team Assignment
- Students will work in groups of 2-3 to simulate the collaborative process of a design team.
- Assignment example:
- A. The team is assigned one or more specific props for an upcoming production.
  - B. The team strategizes how the prop(s) will be constructed, selects appropriate materials, and applies techniques in the construction of the assigned prop(s).
5. Production Attendance Essays:
- A. Attend 2-3 SRJC productions (Note: Students receive one free ticket per production.)
  - B. Write a 500-word essay on each play, focusing on the props used.
6. Props Purchasing Assignment:
- A. Research 2-4 purchasing sources for an assigned object or material.
  - B. Present findings to class, including price, availability and delivery information.
7. Final Project:
- Problem-solve, strategize, and construct (or revise) an instructor-assigned props project involving mold making and/or casting for theatrical use. (Instructor may assign one or more props for a specific production or independent of any specific script or show.)
8. Professionalism - Adhere to the standards of professionalism expected in the field of properties and the course syllabus:
- A. Arrive promptly and prepared for all class meetings, participating actively.
  - B. Maintain an amiable and supportive attitude when interacting with others (fellow students, instructor, technical director, designers, actors, stage managers, etc.)
  - C. Work collaboratively with other team members when working on group tasks.
  - D. Acknowledging the sometimes stressful and time-sensitive working environment, contribute positively by staying focused, listening closely, following instructions carefully, and taking initiative when appropriate.
  - E. Wear required work attire and safety gear, adhere to safety procedures as instructed, and strive to maintain good personal health and safety practices.

Additional Skills-Based Assignments may include:

9. Props Management Assignment:
- A. Develop a problem-solving strategy for organizing and managing props for a production, in theory or practical application.
  - B. Document the management strategy in a 500-word paper (Strategy Paper).
10. Specialized Prop Construction Assignment(s):

Complete one or more additional mold making or casting project(s).

11. Peer assisting in mold making and casting techniques.

### Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

**Writing:** Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Production essays; Strategy paper (optional)

Writing  
10 - 20%

**Problem Solving:** Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

Script analysis, research, strategizing and purchasing assignments

Problem solving  
20 - 40%

**Skill Demonstrations:** All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

Props design and construction assignments; Design Team assignment.

Skill Demonstrations  
40 - 60%

**Exams:** All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Quiz(zes) on reading/safety

Exams  
5 - 15%

**Other:** Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Professionalism (includes participation and attendance)

Other Category  
5 - 10%

### Representative Textbooks and Materials:

The Prop Building Guidebook: For Theatre, Film, and TV. 2nd ed. Hart, Eric. Focal Press. 2017

The Theatre Props Handbook. 2nd ed. James, Thurston. Players Press. 2000 (classic)

The Prop Builders Molding and Casting Handbook. James, Thurston. Betterway Books. 1989 (classic)

Instructor prepared materials.