

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA: School of Theatre + Dance

TPA 4930/793R Special Topics: *Rigging*
Syllabus – Fall 2024

CLASS:

Tuesday/Thursday, period 2-3, 8:30 AM – 10:25 AM, C-219 (2nd floor studio of Nadine McGuire Pavilion)

FINAL:

Final: date TBA

INSTRUCTOR:

Rob Leach rleach@ufl.edu 352-273-0542

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday/Wednesday, 9:00-10:00 AM, Nadine McGuire Pavilion, room G-016.

OBJECTIVES:

This course introduces fundamental concepts for overhead rigging in entertainment. We will specifically be discussing risks and forces, techniques for mitigating them, accidents, equipment, and acceptable practices and methods used by trades in our industry for rigging.

SUGGESTED TEXTBOOK:

Stage Rigging Handbook, 4th Edition, Jay O. Glerum (please check with me before purchase)

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Pen or pencil, pocket-size note pad

16' (minimum length) steel tape measure

Safety glasses, impact rated to ANSI Z87.1 standard, and stamped accordingly. If the glasses don't have this rating on them (i.e. only have it on the package), please don't buy that pair.

Please bring all materials to every class.

IN-PERSON ATTIRE:

Work clothes: pants (such as jeans or khakis), sleeved shirt, and closed-toe/closed-heel shoes; long hair must be tied back; personal accessories must be removed (i.e., dangling necklaces, wallet chains, watches...). You will be asked to leave and marked absent if you do not have proper attire. Do not wear ear buds/headphones in the scene shop, metal shop, grid, catwalks, and theatres.

We will be having class at-height some days; please arrive alert and be honest about your mental health concerning climbing and being on the catwalks and in the grid.

SCHEDULE:

Assignment narratives will be posted on Canvas. The schedule below is an outline and will become more detailed as the semester progresses. Please check Canvas regularly.

Week 1	introduction
Week 2	Risk and agencies
Week 3	types of forces
Week 4	forces and vectors
Week 5	counterweight rigging

Week 6	hardware: life safety
Week 7	hardware: cable and rope
Week 8	hardware: universal components
Week 9	hardware: scenic
Week 10	hardware: audio
Week 11	hardware: lighting
Week 12	truss: vertical & horizontal
Week 13	chain hoists
Week 14	winches and motors
Week 15	fall break–no class
Week 16	summary of math
Week 17	Final exam/Project

EVALUATION:

Students will be evaluated through attendance, participation and professional attitude, successful completion of assignments, readings, quizzes, practicals and projects. Grades will be calculated by tallying earned points. Projects and Rubrics will be discussed and posted on Canvas. Please check regularly.

The final course grade is based on the following percentages (your total points divided by total possible points)

A	94-100%	B-	80-83%	D+	67-69%
A-	90-93%	C+	77-79%	D	64-66%
B+	87-89%	C	74-76%	D-	60-63%
B	84-86%	C-	70-73%	E	0-59%

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Theatre is a collaborative environment that demands continual support. Your successful completion of this course is based on discussion and participation in class and work sessions. Attendance is vital. One (1) unexcused absence from class will be permitted without penalty. Two (2) late arrivals and/or early departures = (1) absence. Where appropriate excused absences require documentation. You are responsible for the content an absence skips.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center.](#) It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UF GRADING POLICIES:

Earned grades will align with UF policies; information can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/#gradestext-otp1>

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT:

Please take care of yourself mentally and physically. Accept responsibility for your successes and failures. Earn your

grade. Adhere to university policies. Respect your peers, facilities, and the staff and faculty of the school. Submit work that shows your pride in the process and your product.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

ELECTRONICS and VIDEO:

While personal electronics can be useful for class purposes, using devices to contact others should only be done for emergencies; calls and texts/messaging should be initiated/answered outside of class/lab.

COURSE EVALUATION:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner.](#) Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here.](#) I do appreciate personal comments that you can provide during class, or ideas about making content more relevant.