

COURSE SYLLABUS

TPA 3227C: PRACTICAL STAGE LIGHT – 18548, 27824 2026 Spring

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Days:	Tuesdays & Thursdays Period 6 – 7
Course Time	12:50 PM - 2:45 PM
Course Location:	CON 218
Credit Hours:	4.00 Credits

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	Leo Lei, Travis Smoak (TA)
Office Location:	CON 209 (Leo), Grad Office (Travis)
Office Hours:	Mondays and Wednesdays 11AM – 2PM (Leo) and/or by Appointment (Leo and Travis)
Phone:	(352) 273-0510
Email:	leiyu@ufl.edu , smoakt@ufl.edu

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK & MATERIALS

- There is no required textbook, handouts will be given out throughout the semester, please also see a list of recommended textbooks below.
- 6” or 8” Adjustable (Crescent) Wrench
- Vectorworks 2026 (or latest version) free educational download: <https://student.myvectorworks.net>
- Lightwright 6 free demo version: <https://www.lightwright.com/downloads>

Recommended Reference:

- **(Suggested) *Designing with Light***, Michael Gillette and Michael McNamara, 6th Ed
- ***The Backstage Handbook***, Paul Carter 3rd Ed.
- ***Photometric Handbook***, Robert C. Mumm, 2nd Ed

COURSE FEES

Material and supply fees are assessed for certain courses to offset the cost of materials or supply items consumed in the course of instruction. A list of approved courses and fees is published in the Schedule of Courses each semester. (UF-3.0374 Regulations of the University of Florida). Material and supply and equipment use fee information is available from the academic departments or from the schedule of courses (Florida Statutes 1009.24). The course fee for this class is \$170.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to the basics of electricity, instrumentation, control principles, design considerations and applications. Includes practical production applications. 10 electric shop hours.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamentals of stage lighting, and the basic concepts of electricity, and lighting design for the theater.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the function of various lighting instruments, rigging, control systems, and technical plots.
3. Distinguish types of circuits and compute wattage, amperage, resistance, and voltage as appropriate to stage lighting systems.

4. Evaluate the responsibilities of a theatrical lighting designer and recognize the designer's collaboration with other production personnel and areas.
5. Identify, define, and describe terminology commonly used in lighting design and execution, including lighting instruments, connectors, lamps, dimmers, consoles, and special effects devices.
6. Identify the qualities and function of light in a theatrical design.
7. Assess and apply the specifics of a light plot in order to hang, circuit, and focus the lighting equipment for a production.

ASSIGNMENTS/EXAMS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project #1: Everyday light

Choose a portable light source from home (i.e. Desk lamp, Flashlight, etc.) Find out its lamp type and wattage. Present and discuss qualities of the light with the class.

Project #2: Light and Shadow

Using found objects and a single incandescent light source, create a shadow sculpture and present to class.

Project #3: Color

Choose a piece of fabric. Pick one lighting gel from supplied selection that enhances the fabric and one gel that distorts the fabric's natural color. Present to the class.

Project #4: Angle (Partner Exercise)

Choose 2 production photos, research and analysis the use of lighting include intensity, angle, color, and texture, to recreate the same lighting look.

Drafting Light Plot Project

Draft the light plot for the Light Lab by using Vectorworks, and Lightwright

Photometric Project

Use Vectorworks to solve some light plotting problems, related to photometric calculation.

10 Electric Hours

Attend 10 hours of light hang or light focus for the main stage productions, with minimum 2 hours of each category. Hours can be logged via this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/S104eQMH3i>

Lighting Strike

Attend one of the main stage production lighting strikes.

Quizzes, and Midterm are based on the reading and lectures of the previous weeks.

The Final Project

Students will create a 3–5-minute lighting program in the Light Lab to a piece of music of their own choice. Students will program their own cues and looks as they see fit. There is a minimum of 15 cues that need to be programmed. Lastly, students will also need to turn in a Cue List, explaining your choices at each moment/cue.

Class Participation:

Participation is graded based on consistent attendance, preparedness, engagement in class activities, and professional interaction with peers and the instructor. Students are expected to contribute constructively and support a positive learning environment throughout the semester.

Assignment	Points
Quizzes (5 x 20 points each)	100
Project #1: Everyday light	50
Project #2: Light and Shadow	50
Project #3: Color	50
Project #4: Angle	100
Mid-Term Exam	100

Drafting Light Plot	100
Photometric Project	100
Final Project	100
10 Electric Hours	100
Lighting Strike	50
Class Participation	100
Total Points Possible	1000

GRADING SCALE

Grade	Points
A	1000-930
A-	929-900
B+	899-870
B	869-830
B-	829-800
C+	799-770
C	769-730
C-	729-700
D+	699-670
D	669-600
F	599 & Below

COURSE EXPECTATIONS/POLICIES

- Students are expected to participate in class discussion and critical feedback of peers' projects.
- Students are expected to thoughtfully investigate critical feedback from instructor and peers.
- Students are expected to come to class with homework finished and with the required textbook. Students are expected to be respectful of others at all times.

Attendance Policy

The success of this course is based on discussion and class participation. Attendance is vital. Only one (1) unexcused absence from class will be permitted without penalty. Each additional unexcused absence will lower your final grade by 5%. Two (2) late arrivals and/or early departures to/from class will count as one (1) absence. Six (6) unexcused absences will result in a failing grade in this class. Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog and require appropriate documentation. (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>)

Late Assignments/Make-Up Exams/Re-Submission of Work/Extra Credit

Assignments will not be accepted for full credit after the due date. Assignments turned in late will be reduced by one letter grade (10% of the total points of the assignment) per day late. The instructor must approve all late assignments, make-up exams, and re-submission of work not later than one week after initial due date. The opportunity for extra credit may be given to the class near the end of the semester.

Making Appointments/Contacting the Instructor

Students may arrange appointments during office hours. Instructor is available during those office hours and by appointment. Questions related to grades, performance, attendance, and other individual concerns/issues are encouraged to be handled via a face-to-face appointment with the instructor.

Email Usage

Please use email as a form of communication with instructor to address appointment (instead of phone.) Email should be used to clarify assignment-related questions and to set appointments. Your instructor will use your UFL email address for all class communications. It is your responsibility to check that email address several times daily.

Use of Unauthorized Electronic Devices in the Classroom

Cell phones, MP3 players, and other personal communication or entertainment devices are to be silenced or turned off, and not used or displayed during the class period. Laptops cannot be used during class for anything other than class-related content. This will be strictly enforced. If the instructor is forced to make repeated attempts to any individual student or group of students to restrict usage of these devices for reasons unrelated to class content, these students class participation grade will be diminished.

UF ACADEMIC POLICIES & RESOURCES

Academic Policies:

- Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in the course are consistent with university policies. [See UF Academic Regulations and Policies for more information regarding the University Attendance Policies.](#)
- Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. [See the “Get Started With the DRC” webpage on the Disability Resource Center site.](#) 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.
- Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points. This may be achieved by including [a link to the University grades and grading policies.](#)
- Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways:
 1. The email they receive from GatorEvals
 2. Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals
 3. The central portal at <https://my-ufl.bluer.com>

Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

- **The University's Honesty Policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc.:**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [See the UF Conduct Code website for more information.](#) If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

- **In-Class Recording:**

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal education use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and deliver by an instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course.

A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentation such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Academic Resources:

- E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at [352-392-4357](tel:352-392-4357) or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
 - [Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, [352-392-1601](tel:352-392-1601). Career assistance and counseling services.
 - [Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call [866-281-6309](tel:866-281-6309) or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.
 - [Academic Resources](#): 1317 Turlington Hall, Call [352-392-2010](tel:352-392-2010), or to make a private appointment: [352-392-6420](tel:352-392-6420). Email contact: teaching-center@ufl.edu. General study skills and tutoring.
 - [Writing Studio](#): Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, [352-846-1138](tel:352-846-1138) | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
 - Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; [Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information.](#)
 - Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): [View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information.](#)
 - UF Student Success Initiative: Visit <https://studentsuccess.ufl.edu/> for resources that support your success as a UF student.
 - [Public Speaking Lab](#): (Dial Center, 501 Rolfs Hall). Offering online and in-person help developing, organizing, and practicing oral presentations. Contact email: publicspeakinglab@clas.ufl.edu.
- Campus Health and Wellness Resources:
- UF Whole Gator Resources: Visit <https://one.ufl.edu/whole-gator/discover> for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.

Information about university-wide policies and resources can be found here:

<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

COURSE CALENDAR

Note: This calendar is an important guide and could be subject to change. All students are responsible for following the schedule and due dates of assignments outlined here, as well as any updates communicated in class or via email by instructor. Your instructor will use your UFL email address for all class communications. It is your responsibility to check that email address several times daily.

WEEK	TUESDAY	THURSDAY	ASSIGNMENT	DUE
Week 1 1/13, 1/15	Introductions, Syllabus Overview, Required Materials.	Tour with Grads in theatre, blackbox, and light lab. (Leo out)	Assign Project #1: Everyday Light	
Week 2 1/20, 1/22	Project 1 Presentation Lighting fixtures: reflection & reflectors	Project #2: Light and Shadow work in class	Project #2: Light and Shadow	Project #1: Everyday Light
Week 3 1/27, 1/29	Conventional fixture, color, gobo, hang & focus	Project 2 Presentation Intelligent Fixtures & Lighting Control		Quiz 1: Instrument Project #2: Light and Shadow
Week 4 2/3, 2/5	Electrical theory and practice	- Cable and connectors - Lighting angles & photometrics		Quiz 2: Electricity
Week 5 2/10, 2/12	- Color and effects Project #3: Color	In Class Project #3: Color	Project #3: Color	Quiz 3: Type of fixtures, and Connectors
Week 6 2/17, 2/19	Dimmer, channel, circuit	Reading Light Plot		Quiz 4: Color Project #3: Color 2/23 11:59pm
Week 7 2/24, 2/26	Drafting and paperwork, introduce to Vectorworks	Basic Drafting in Vectorworks		Quiz 5: Reading Light Plot
Week 8 3/3, 3/5	Midterm Review	Midterm	Project #4: Angle Drafting Light Plot Project	
Week 9 3/10, 3/12	Basic Drafting in Vectorworks Intro to Lightwright	Magicsheet, Instrument Key and Title Block		QUIZ-6 VECTORWORKS

Spring Break NO CLASSES				
WEEK	TUESDAY	THURSDAY	ASSIGNMENT	DUE
Week 10 3/24, 3/26	Photometric Project	Photometric Project	Photometric Project	Photometric Project 3/30 11:59pm
Week 11 3/31, 4/2	Ion training: intro, patching Assign Final Project	Ion training: presets, lighting cues	Final Project	Project #4: Angle 4/6 23:59pm
Week 12 4/8, 4/10	Ion training: basic effects, templates, step based, absolute	Work on final project		
Week 13 4/14, 4/16	Work on final project	Work on final project		Quiz 7: Ion
Week 14 4/21	Work on final project	READING DAY-NO CLASS		
	FINAL PRESENTATION Final Exam: 4/29/2025 @ 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM			Final Project

DISCLAIMER: This syllabus represents the instructor's current plans and objectives. As the semester progresses, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Unexpected circumstances could cause class to be cancelled, and the instructor will rework the syllabus as necessary. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.