Meeting times and dates: Each Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., from January 21, 2016 to April 14, 2016 (except for Spring Break (March 17)).

Location: Classes will be held in the Carpentry Building (behind the main (Administration) building).

Projects: Within reason, you can build anything you want and can afford.

    Large projects: Typical large projects include bookcases, workbenches, closet/garage storage systems, and large tables. These projects usually take the entire course to complete.

    Small projects: Typical Small projects include spice cabinets, storage boxes, and small tables. Students will probably be able to complete several small projects in lieu of a large project.

Building supplies and tools: Mid-America Technology Center will provide nails, glue, power tools and hand tools.

Materials and safety gear: Students are required to provide eye protection, ear protection and a dust mask (we will be dealing with lots of saw dust). Students are also required to provide materials required for student projects (wood and whatever hardware (hinges, door pulls, etc.) and other materials (countertops, faucets, etc.) are required for the project). Students are also responsible for transporting materials to MATC and removing the finished project from MATC.

Clothing: Wear comfortable work clothes and shoes/boots (no sandals or flip-flops). When choosing your clothing, keep in mind that we will be working in a shop that has heaters but no air conditioning (when the shop is warm, we will open the shop’s overhead doors). Do not wear jewelry or loose-fitting clothing, which could get caught in the moving parts of a power tool. Bring work gloves for handling lumber (to avoid splinters), but do not wear gloves when operating a power saw (gloves can get caught by a saw blade and draw a hand into the blade). A tool belt will also be helpful.

Tips for materials and transporting materials: Unless you are building only small projects, your project will likely require plywood, which is sold in 4’ x 8’ sheets and which will not fit into a car or even into most SUVs. If you don’t have convenient access to a pickup, then purchase your plywood at a lumber yard or home center which will cut the plywood for you. Some stores will take your plan and cut every piece you need, which may allow you to transport all of the plywood in a car or SUV. However, sometimes the saw blades are dull, which makes the cuts rough, so it’s better to have the store cut the pieces slightly larger than needed, and then a final (smoother) cut can be made in class to trim the pieces to the desired dimensions.
If you are building something for inside a home, you should buy cabinet-grade lumber (plywood and hardwood) for the outer pieces. Especially if you plan to stain (as opposed to paint) your project, all of the outer pieces should be of the same species of wood (oak, cherry, pine, etc.). Parts of your project which will be hidden from view can be made with soft woods (usually pine). Thus, a drawer can be assembled from (1) pine boards for the sides, front and back, (2) pine plywood for the bottom, and (3) hardwood for the face (the only part of the drawer which is visible when the drawer is closed).

Small tools: While generally any tool needed will be available at MATC, there is sometimes a shortage of small tools (tape measures, small hammers, etc.). Students are welcome to bring their own tools, but all tools brought by students should have the student’s name or other identifying mark so that the student’s tools aren’t confused with the tools of MATC or other students.

Selecting a project: Especially for beginning woodworkers, I highly recommend building a project from professionally-designed, detailed plans. These plans will:

- provide a complete list of materials needed and step-by-step cutting and assembly instructions,
- allow you to focus on learning to use the tools available in this class (custom-designing your own project and calculating all the materials needed can be quite challenging and time-consuming), and
- usually provide nice features and details that you might not even think about if you are custom-designing your project.

Many free plans are available on the internet. Some sources are:

http://www.woodsmithshop.com/episodes/  (enter your email address to obtain a copy of the plan)

http://www.wwgoa.com/plans/all-plans/

http://woodworking.formeremortals.net/mo-plans/

http://www.woodmagazine.com/woodworking-plans/free/

Of course, your project does not have to match the plans exactly. You will be able to change dimensions, change types of lumber, combine features from several plans, and make other changes from the plans.

When you have selected a project: As soon as you have selected a project (as much in advance of the first class as possible), please email to me the following:

- a copy of your plan or a link to your plan (if you aren’t using a professionally-designed plan, sketch what you want to build and include dimensions).
- the dimensions of the area where you plan to place/install your project (height, width and depth).
c. the species (oak, cherry, pine, etc.) and type(s) of lumber you plan to use (hardwood, plywood, softwood).

d. whether you plan to paint or stain your project (we won’t be painting or staining in class, but this information can affect how a project should be built or which materials should be used).

If are unsure of any of the above, just tell me that in your email, and then I will provide you with suggestions. Also, email any questions about which project to choose or whether a particular project is feasible for this class. My email address is at the top of this syllabus.

**Classes:** If you come to the first class with your plans and your materials, we will start on your project during the first class. (Don’t unload your materials before the first class; during a break, you will be allowed to drive into the shop and unload).

If you don’t come to the first class with your plans and your materials, there will still be plenty to do and plenty to learn.

The first few classes will include safety instruction, an introduction to the functions of various power tools, and a primer on the operation of each tool. Every class will include substantial time working on student projects.

**Recommended viewing:** These programs/videos will educate you about many aspects of woodworking and will give you many ideas:

“Woodsmith Shop” and “Rough Cut: Woodworking with Tommy Mac” on Channel 13 (OETA) on Sunday mornings (OETA seems to show one program for a while and then switch to the other for a while)

www.youtube.com (search for woodworking projects)

**Summary of what to bring to class (as detailed above):**

- Appropriate clothing
- Work gloves
- Eye protection
- Hearing protection
- Dust mask
- Plan for your project
- The dimensions of the area where you plan to place/install your project (height, width and depth)
- Materials for your project (wood, hardware, etc.)
- Tool belt and small tools (optional)