

THEA 240: Costume Construction

TTH 11:30-12:45

Spring 2013

Instructor: Billy Wilburn

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Office Hours: TTH 10:00 – 11:00,

MWF 11:00-12:00, or

or by appointment

Costume Shop: 688-6062

Description of Course

Sewing and patterning methods used in theatrical costuming, covering the basics and beyond, using different machinery, stitching techniques, and patterning types.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to give both basic and advanced costume technology. At the end of this course the successful student will be able to:

- Identify the costume shop personnel
- Understand the organization of the costume shop
- Recognize and understand the safe use of costume shop materials, tools and equipment
- Identify the grain line of fabric
- Understand the steps of a theatrical costume
- Demonstrate a command of hand and machine stitching
- Take accurate measurements of the body
- Read and use a commercial pattern and envelope
- Understand a variety of patterning techniques

Required Text/Materials

Basic Sewing for Costume Construction: A Handbook, 2nd edition, 978-1-57766-755-1

\$60.00 lab fee which supplies you with the following:

Muslin, thread, marking implements, scissors, rulers, use of machines, notions, needles, craft paper, etc...

Recommended Texts (copies available for use in costume shop)

Jaffe Draping for Fashion Design

Ingham and Covey Costume Technician's Handbook

Shaeffer Couture Sewing Techniques

Reader's Digest New Complete Guide to Sewing

Projects/Assignments

Class will focus in three major construction technique areas:

Sewing Basics - Hand, machine sewing, and tools of the trade

Patterning - Drawstring Bag and commercial pattern project

Draping - Bodice and skirt draping

Production Assignment

This is to get you involved with the university productions so you can see in a real world setting how a costume technician and costume shop runs. For this project you will be graded based on attendance and participation. You will be required to work 40 hours in the costume shop. This work can be, but is not limited to, costume construction, hand sewing, costume crafts, organization, etc. You will schedule the day that you would like to work and are expect to be there the same day and time every week. You cannot make up a missed day but you may work ahead and complete your hours early.

Attendance

This class **requires active participation** from everyone on a **daily basis**. Therefore, your attendance is vital and **mandatory**. The theatre program has agreed to institute the following attendance policy for all classes which meet 2 days/week.

- **2 unexcused absences**, overall grade is dropped **one letter grade**;
- **3 unexcused absences**, overall grade is dropped **two letter grades**;
- **4 unexcused absences**, overall grade is dropped **three letter grades**;
- **5 unexcused absences**, overall grade is dropped **four letter grades**;

Excused absences include illness, family or work emergencies, university approved activities or other reasonable circumstances as determined by the instructor and arranged well in advance. **The instructor must be notified before the scheduled class time to receive an excused absence.** Again, for university approved activities or other unusual circumstances, **TALK TO THE INSTRUCTOR WELL IN ADVANCE** to make arrangements for completing assignments, in class work, or other missed material.

Acceptable means of contact regarding an absence: email, phone, or face to face. Information passed through friend or classmate **is NOT accepted**. Being on time and ready to work is also vital. **Two tardies** (5 minutes late or more) will count as an absence. Leaving class early, except due to illness or by advance arrangement with instructor, is considered an absence or similar to a tardy at the discretion of the instructor.

Each student is responsible for obtaining information on materials missed due to absence.

Excessive excused absences may lead the instructor to recommend withdrawal from the class or arrangements for a grade of “incomplete” to provide additional time for assignment completion. Scenework and lab hours cannot be carried over for an incomplete.

Grading	Points
13 Quizzes (Lowest score dropped)	120
Hand Sewing	50
Machine Sewing and Seams	50
Clipping and Pressing	10
Zippers	20
Fabrics	20
Drawstring Bag	50
Commercial project	50
Draping-bodice	25
Draping-skirt	25
Production Assignment	80
Final Binder	100
Total	600

Schedule *all reading assignments are to be done in advance*

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
1	1/10	Introduction		
2	1/15	Tools of the Trade	Appendix I	Quiz 1
	1/17	Hand Sewing	Chapter 1	Quiz 2
3	1/22	Hand Sewing		
	1/24	Hand Sewing – Fasteners	Chapter 2	Quiz 3
4	1/29	Machine Sewing	Chapter 3	Quiz 4
	1/31	Machine Sewing		
5	2/5	Machine Sewing	Chapter 4	Quiz 5
	2/7	Seams	Chapter 5	Quiz 6
6	2/12	Seams		
	2/14	Seams	Chapter 6	Quiz 7
7	2/19	Clipping and Pressing	Chapter 7	Quiz 8
	2/21	Zippers	Chapter 8	Quiz 9
8	2/26	Zippers		
	2/28	Fabrics	Chapter 9	Quiz 10
9	3/5	Spring Break – No Classes		
	3/7	Spring Break – No Classes		
10	3/12	Measurements	Chapter 10	Quiz 11
	3/14	Drawstring Bag	Chapter 11 & 12	Quiz 12
11	3/19	Drawstring Bag		
	3/21	Drawstring Bag		
12	3/26	Commercial Patterns	Chapter 16	Quiz 13
	3/28	Pattern Layout		
13	4/2	Commercial Pattern Project		
	4/4	Commercial Pattern Project		
14	4/9	Commercial Pattern Project		
	4/11	Draping-Bodice		

15	4/16	Draping-Bodice		
	4/18	Draping		
16	4/23	Draping – Skirt		
	4/25	Draping - Skirt		

Final Exam: Monday, April 29th, 12:00 – 1:40pm

Grading Scale

- 540 - 600 = A
- 480 - 539 = B
- 420 - 479 = C
- 360 - 419 = D
- 00 - 359 = F

ADA

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please inform me and make the appropriate arrangements with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). The Office of Disability Services is located in Room 125, Wintrode Student Center. To schedule an appointment, call (605) 688-4504 and request to speak with the Coordinator of Disability Services.

Freedom in Learning

Students are responsible for learning the content of any course of study in which they are enrolled. Under the Board of Regents and university policy, student academic performance shall be evaluated solely on an academic basis and students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study. Students who believe that academic evaluation is unrelated to academic standards but is related instead to judgment of their personal opinion or conduct should first contact the instructor of the course. If the student remains unsatisfied, the student may contact the department head and/or dean of the college which offers the class to initiate a review of the evaluation.