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THTR 542.01: Problems in Costume Design

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School of Theatre & Dance
Problems in Costume Design- THTR 542-01
Spring 2017

Professor: Sarah Fulford
Office: PART 040
Office Hours: M - W 12:30pm - 2:00pm
Email: sarah.fulford@umontana.edu

Classroom: PARTV 040
Credits: 3
Prerequisite: Stage Craft - THTR 202

Class Days & Time:

Jan. 24 2017 – May 4, 2017

T-R, 8:00am -10:50am

Class Final: Thursday, May 11th – 8:00am -10:00pm

Contact: Please contact me through the University email address provided above.

Student Contact:

All correspondence will be conducted through your **University Email**. Students are responsible for checking their University email regularly. Any information that is missed as a result of not checking your University email is not the responsibility of the instructor. This includes notification of any changes to class including cancellations. Additionally, if class is canceled, a note will be posted on the door of the costume shop.

Course Description:

Intermediate Construction builds foundational garment construction skills that prepare students to enter the professional theatrical costume industry.

Recommended Text:

***The Costume Technicians Handbook* by Elizabeth Covey & Rosemary Ingham.**

(For students who intend to take *Flat Patterning* and *Draping I* highly recommend you invest in this book. It is a standard text, regularly used as a reference in the industry)

Materials: If you do choose the purchase and use your own tools for this class please be sure to put your name on them. It is the responsibility of the student to keep track of their personal tools. Students are encouraged to purchase the type of materials that the instructor has specified. Working with common tools will facilitate a better understanding of the principles taught in this class

- **18" X 2" Clear Ruler**
- **Soft Tape Measure - Recommended - (160" long)**
- **Fabric Scissors (Kai Scissors recommended)**
- **Seam Ripper**
- **Calculator**

Cell Phones: You will be allowed to use the calculator on your phone. **HOWEVER**, if you are observed using your phone in class for any purpose other than the calculator it

will be confiscated for the rest of the class period and will be returned to you at the end of the class. You will subsequently be expected to bring a traditional calculator to class. If you fail to bring a traditional calculator after any infraction, you are out of luck and will depend on the kindness of your class mates. Repeat offenders of the cell phone policy (three times or more) will be considered absent and it will effect your final grade.

Course Objectives and Format:

This class will be divided in to two units.

The first unit will be in the first half of the semester. We will be completing a sampler project that covers comprehensive sewing techniques. Each part of this project must be completed in a timely manor BEFORE students can move on to the next part. If a student does not finish a part within the allotted class time OR misses the instructions for one part they are responsible for making up the missed work in their own time by the due date. All the parts of the sampler will be assembled into a functional tool kit, appropriate for use in a professional shop. Completion of this project will be expected of each student by the date assigned and will count as a midterm graded assignment. The project will be graded for quality of construction and demonstration of learning.

For the second and final unit, graduate student will cut and construct a fully realized costume for inclusion in costume stock. We will be using a combination of commercial patterns and theatrical patterns drafted by the instructor. Student will be assigned a project based on their level of skill and confidence. Although it is understood that everyone works at a different pace, as in a professional shop, there will be a progress schedule that students will be expected to work toward. Completion of this project will be expected of each student by the date assigned and will count as final graded assignment. The project will be graded for quality of construction and demonstration of learning.

Grading & Assessment:

As this is a class designed for costuming students who intend to work in the professional field, grading and assessment will be based of the expectations of the industry. Those expectations being; showing up, doing the work cooperatively and with a positive attitude and doing it at the highest quality.

Attendance: 30%

As previously stated, this is a lab work based class where students are expected to be present at all classes and work to their fullest potential.

Quality: 30%

As in the industry, an emphasis on quality and accuracy will be expected. Each project will be evaluated for quality.

Participation: 40%

(20% = Completing Work on Time)

As in the industry, all projects are expected to be completed by the dates assigned. Failure to complete a project on time will effect your grade.

(20% = Attitude & Conduct)

Also as in the industry, your attitude and conduct in class will effect your evaluation. This will be based on if you came to class prepared, your demonstration of problem solving and your focus and conduct in class.

Class Expectations:

This is a lab based class where a lot of information is going to be covered very quickly. Consequently, your presence and participation in class is mandatory for your success. All students are expected to be in class on time. A great deal of helpful information beyond what is stated in the syllabus will be communicated by the instructor throughout the course. If you are not present to hear that information, you are missing out on an opportunity to learn something that could be beneficial to your long term career. If you miss the class, you miss the information.

Attendance:

A substantial % of your grade is based on Attendance.

A doctor's note must be provided for an absence to be excused.

Three tardies will count as an unexcused absence.

If you are absent due to illness, please inform the instructor as soon as possible.

If you are absent due to illness, it is your responsibility to contact the professor regarding missed work and/or ask your classmates what was covered that day. Students are responsible for making arrangements to come in during the professor's office hours if they wish to go over missed work.

Students are expected to be responsible for their own education. Any effort made to make up for missed work must be made by the student in their own time.

There will be no extra credit for this class.

Instructor Expectations of Conduct:

Under no circumstances will language or conduct that is racially offensive, homophobic or body shaming be permitted in this class. If any of this behavior is observed, you will immediately be asked to leave by the instructor.

Please respect the time and expertise of your instructor(s). Please conduct yourself in a respectful and professional manner. If you fail to do so you will be asked to leave by the instructor

Please respect the work of your fellow students. If you are in anyway actively disturbing other students and getting in the way of their education you will be asked to leave by the instructor.

Conversation & Productively

As a lab class there will be opportunities to talk while working on projects. Students are expected to be proactive about their work and self-monitoring of their time. Please be aware of the volume and content of your conversations and if you are distracting your self and/or your peers. The instructor reserves the right to ask student to either work quietly or change the topic of conversation in order to facilitate a productive working environment.

Hygiene/Personal Care/Dress Code

The costume shop at UM is a professional work place and consequently the expectations of conduct follow those of the industry. Please avoid wearing perfume or other strong scents. Please come to the costume shop appropriately dressed and bathed, just as you would to a job. This includes wearing clean clothes and shoes, wearing deodorant, brushing your teeth and regularly bathing. The costume shop is a confined space with very little ventilation and we need to be respectful of our peers and colleagues.

This applies to those using the costume shop as a classroom space, those using the space during lab time or for personal projects and for performers and technicians using the space for fittings.

If the instructor observes a persistent issue, the individual will be contacted privately.

If you have a cough or running nose please wash your hand regularly. Many of the tools used in the shop are for common use on a daily basis and a cold spreads quickly in this space. If the instructor observes a problem that puts other peoples health at risk you may be asked to either leave or take appropriate cautionary measures.

Please wear clothing that you can work in comfortably and appropriately. You may be asked to work on the floor, climb on the table, climb ladders etc. and clothing worn to class should accommodate accordingly. For fittings or in class demonstrations every effort should be made to maintain generally socially expectable expectations of modesty. Again, the costume shop is a professional shop, please dress accordingly.

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php.

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance *Student Handbook*. The *Handbook* is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/About/handbook.php>.

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.

Due to safety considerations, at **no** point during a student's time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should non-enrolled persons be guests of that student **without my consent**. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student's grade.

Students with Special Needs

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of

academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://life.umt.edu/dss/>.