

Costume Construction THEA 1372:001

Spring 2020

Course Syllabus

Class Meets: Tuesdays/Thursdays 12:30-1:45 in Costume Shop

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Office Hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays 2-3pm; Wednesday 11-12 or by appointment

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Required Text: *Basic Sewing for Costume Construction: A Handbook, 2nd edition* by Rebecca Cunningham

Course Description:

A basic, hands-on costume technology class that utilizes theatrical construction principles and techniques. Emphasis is given to all machine and hand stitches, which are used in projects throughout class. Also explores pattern drafting and draping.

Course Objectives:

Costume Construction is intended as an introduction to basic sewing and craft work for the theatre. Theatre students will use this course as a building block to solidify skills that will be used in more advanced technical theatre classes and production work. Other interested students will become more familiar with the workings of the theatre and may find these skills and techniques useful in home-sewing, mending, and craft work. All students will be introduced to the work of the theatre costume shop and personnel and will have the opportunity to take part in the costume construction of a production in process. Practical skills associated with various sewing equipment (sewing machines, sergers, irons, etc.) will be developed, as well as hand-sewing techniques. There will be a brief introduction to costume history and design. This is primarily a hands-on course, but development of time-management and communication skills will be emphasized (students will present and share each project with the class). Students at all levels of sewing and/or costuming are welcome and sewing projects can be tailored to meet current skill level.

Marketable Skills:

Strong oral and written communication skills.

Strong analytical skills and Strong teamwork and collaboration skills.

Course Requirements:

Safety policies for costume shop and all equipment.

Assignments and Grading:

Sewing Sampler: Students will complete samples of common hand and machine sewing techniques, hardware and closures. Samples should be firmly stapled to the appropriate worksheet and submitted in a binder or folder. The sewing sampler will indicate the beginning skills of the student and demonstrate familiarity with the machines and techniques used in the costume shop. Additional information will be given about this and all projects. You will present all projects on the day they are due and keep them in your sampler. The sampler's completion of each chapter covered, readings that accompany each chapter, and quality of your work will make up **50% of your course grade.**

Class Participation: Attendance is required EVERY DAY. This is a hands-on class and you need to participate to learn. Students will be granted **two** excused absences in the semester. Any further absences will count against your final grade. If you become ill or have a personal or family emergency, such as a funeral, please contact me prior to the start of class and bring a doctor's slip, obituary or note. If you have doubts about whether something is considered excusable, please talk to me sooner rather than later. Excusing students from class for any reason will remain up to the discretion of the instructor. **Constitutes 25% of your grade.**

Final Creative project: Your final project will be one of the drafted patterns and construction of one of the items from the text. **The final project grade will make up 25% of your course grade.** We will start the final project in class to allow sufficient time for instruction.

Student Learning Outcomes

Learn a selection of common stitching techniques by completing samplers, which can be referenced in the future when the skills are required.

Name the parts of a sewing machine and identify them on different makes and models.

Be able to rethread a sewing machine with speed and accuracy, including filling an empty bobbin.

Diagnose simple problems that may be preventing the sewing machine from functioning.

Take measurements of another person and apply them to the following: identifying whether an existing pattern will fit, measuring an existing pattern, (completing a basic pattern drafting – TBD)

Visually identify common fabric weaves and fiber contents. Students can interpret pattern markings and instructions to properly cut out a garment.

Students are familiar with basic construction methods, including pinning, stitching and pressing.

Students can envision the construction of a basic garment from the pattern pieces through observing the pattern markings and garment illustrations.

Students with Special Needs:

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the Student’s responsibility to initiate a request. Please contact me, Ms. Rebecca Greathouse Wren, M.Ed., LPC-S, Director/Counselor, Accessibility Services Coordinator, Ferguson Hall (Suite 112) at 432.837.8203; mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Students should then contact the instructor as soon as possible to initiate the recommended accommodations.

Course Schedule

Tentative -Subject to change at Instructor’s discretion

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
Tuesday, Jan 14	Introduction and getting to know the shop
Thursday, Jan 16	Chapter 1 Hand Stitches
Tuesday, Jan 21	Chapter 1 continued - work in class
Thursday, Jan 23	Chapter 2 Hand Sewn Fasteners
Tuesday, Jan 28	Chapter 3 Machine Sewing
Thursday, Jan 30	Chapter 3 continued – work in class
Tuesday, Feb. 4	Chapter 4 Pinning and Sewing
Thursday, Feb. 6	Chapter 5 Seams

Tuesday, Feb. 11	Chapter 5 continued – work in class
Thursday, Feb. 13	Chapter 6 Seam Finishes
Tuesday, Feb. 18	Chapter 7 Special Techniques
Thursday, Feb. 20	Chapter 8 Advanced Techniques
Tuesday, Feb. 25	Chapter 8 continued – work in class
Thursday, Feb. 27	Chapter 9 Fabric Basics
Tuesday, Mar. 3	Chapter 9 continued – work in class
Thursday, Mar. 5	Chapter 9 continued – work in class
Mon-Fri., Mar. 9-13	Spring Break Week – SRSU Closed
Tuesday, Mar. 17	Chapter 10 Measuring the Actor
Thursday, Mar. 19	Chapter 10 continued – work in class
Tuesday, Mar. 24	Chapter 11 Pattern Making Basics
Thursday, Mar. 26	Chapter 13 Drafting a two-piece beret
Tuesday, Mar. 31	Chapter 13 continued – work in class
Thursday, Apr. 2	Chapter 13 continued – work in class
Tuesday, Apr. 7	Chapter 14 Drafting a T-Shaped Tunic FINAL PROJECT
Thursday, Apr. 9	Final project– work in class
Tuesday, Apr. 14	Final project – work in class
Thursday, Apr. 16	Final project – work in class
Tuesday, Apr. 21	TBD
Thursday, Apr. 23	TBD
Tuesday, Apr. 28	Last class day before exam.

Final Exam will be May 6 at 10:15 in the Costume Shop.