

## Costume Construction THEA 1372:001

**Sul Ross State University**

Spring 2024

Course Syllabus – Subject to change at Instructor's discretion

Class Meets: MWF 10-11:50 in Costume Shop FAB 104

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**Required Text:** *Basic Sewing for Costume Construction: A Handbook, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

Strong teamwork and collaboration skills.

### **Course Requirements:**

Safety policies for costume shop and all equipment. These safety policies will be covered the first day of class.

### **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 assignments on the day they are due. The sampler's completion and quality will make up **25% 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.**

**Midterm Assignment or Exam** (to be determined): There will be either a midterm assignment or an exam on the material covered by midpoint in the semester. **This midterm will make up 25% of your grade.**

**Final Creative garment:** Your final project builds on skills learned in the course and is the product of your own design and interest. The student will choose a drafted pattern. Projects may come from your practicum, explore other sections of the text, or come from personal interest. Individual conferences with the instructor about the final project will take place early in the semester. The project will show the student's skills developed and will allow the student to express his or her own creativity and understanding of techniques. Students will give a brief presentation and may model the garment of his or her final project. **The final project grade will make up the remaining 25% of your course grade.**

### **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.

**Attendance and participation:** Attendance is necessary! Attendance will be taken each scheduled class period in accordance with University and Departmental Policy and will count as part of the daily work grade. In accordance with the student handbook, after 9 hours of absences, the student will be dropped from the course with an “F”. If a student is tardy and misses the roll call, they will be charged with one absence. It is up to your professors’ discretion whether an absence is excused or unexcused.

**Cell phones, texting and engaging in activities unrelated to this class are all strictly prohibited during class time.** This means, NO electronic devices are allowed in the class. You must take handwritten notes during class.

**Academic Integrity:** Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person’s work as one’s own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden.

**SRSU Disability Services:** 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 each semester for each class. Alpine students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartze Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, SRSU’s Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we’ll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email [mschwartze@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartze@sulross.edu) Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, SUI Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832

**Technical Support:** SRSU 24/7 Blackboard Technical Support: Toll Free: 888.837.6055.

*Email: [blackboardsupport@sulross.edu](mailto:blackboardsupport@sulross.edu)*

**SRSU Library Services:**

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library’s website, [library.sulross.edu](http://library.sulross.edu). Off-campus access requires your LoboID and password.

Check out materials using your photo ID. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email ([srsulibrary@sulross.edu](mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu)), or phone (432-837-8123).

The Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) Libraries at Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass.

Offer additional access to library spaces and resources. Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde students may also use online resources available through SWTJC website, <https://library.swtjc.edu>. The SWTJC Libraries serve as pick-up locations for Inter-Library Loan (ILL) and Document Delivery from the Alpine campus.

**Classroom Climate of Respect:**

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still, we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

**Student Services:**

Student services are designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. Visit: <https://www.sulross.edu/section/311/student-support-services>

**Final Exam: Scheduled for Friday, May 3, 2024 at 10:15-12:15**

**Course Schedule:**

A course calendar will be provided the first week of class and also posted on blackboard.