Costume Construction - THEA 3013
Fall 2012
TR 11:00am-12:20pm  Dressing Rooms/Costume Studio
Elizabeth Lewandowski  Office : FA B204
Office hours –M-F 1:00-5:00pm (when Studio is in session)
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Course Objectives
This course is developed to bring the student to an understanding and development of the technical skills necessary to build and create theatrical costumes in a healthy, safe environment and to document that work. This will include the study of basic hand and machine sewing techniques, health and safety in the costume studio, fitting and alteration techniques, an understanding of fabrics and the basic modification thereof, and the documentation of the work. This overview will enlighten the novice to the role of the costume technician. These course objectives fulfill, in part or in full, the Department of Theatre Learning Outcomes. The successful student will be able to:

- Identify the costume studio personnel (Employability, Professionalism)
- Understand the physical organization of the costume studio
- Recognize and understand the safe use of costume studio materials, tools and equipment (Employability, Safety knowledge and Practice))
- Identify the grainline of a fabric and modification techniques used in distressing fabric/garments (Employability)
- List the steps in the creation of a costume (Employability)
- Demonstrate a command of a variety of hand and machine stitches (Employability, Theoretical/Conceptual Knowledge and Application)
- Take accurate body measurements (Employability, Professionalism)
- Create costume crafts (Employability)
- Photograph costume techniques and create a digital record of that work (Employability, Professionalism)

Textbook and Supplies
Rosemary Ingham & Liz Covey's Costume Technicians Handbook 3rd edition
Basic lab sewing kit
1” 3-ring binder and white card stock
Access to a digital camera and Microsoft PowerPoint

Course Work
The primary emphasis for grading will be the individual projects. Attentiveness, neatness and a healthy positive attitude can counterbalance beginning skill levels. Your final grade will reflect your progress and the willingness with which you have embraced the process.

The class projects will strengthen skills and reinforce information covered in assigned readings and lectures. All projects are due on the assigned date. No projects will be accepted late.
Ten quizzes will be given during the course. These will not be announced. These quizzes may be written, a hands-on activity or a skill that should be mastered or a combination of the two. An unexcused absence on the day of the quiz will prevent the student from being allowed to make up the quiz. Make up quizzes will be more difficult than the one given in class.

Many days you will need your sewing kit in class. I suggest that you bring it to school and lock it up in one of the Dressing Room lockers. You can also use this locker for storing class supplies as needed.

Some days you will be required to wear specific dress to class i.e. grubby clothes for dyeing and distressing. Appropriate dress on these days will be counted as a quiz grade. Failure to dress appropriately will result in a grade of 0 for the quiz.

**Student Responsibilities**

You are expected to attend all classes. Since lectures expand on assignments, missing class means missing important information. This class is, by its nature, participatory. Missing class means missing the chance to participate in your own education and the education of others in the class. The college policy allows for five and you die. You are allowed five fifty minute absences beyond which you will be dropped from the class by the professor. Attendance is taken at the beginning of the class. The professor reserves the right to disallow counting a student present who is extremely late. If you need to miss class due to a religious holiday, please see the professor as far in advance as possible. If you need to miss class due to university-sponsored events such as field trips and sports, please see the professor as far in advance as possible. You will be required to complete the assigned work on or before the due date, and you will be required to submit an official form from the university before your absence. Please note that work, non-emergency medical and dental appointments, hangovers, intramural games, visitors from out of town, fixing your roommate’s computer, fraternity/sorority events, arguments with boyfriends/girlfriends and studying for other classes do NOT constitute excused absences.

You are expected to do the assignments when they are assigned. Failure to do so will result in an inability to keep pace. All graded assignments should be submitted on or before the deadline. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Dishonest work on homework or on examinations is a serious offense, as is plagiarism. The university and the professor will not tolerate either one. If either occurs, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. The 2002-2003 Student Senate wrote and adopted the MSU Student Honor Creed. The highlight of the creed is “As an MSU student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else to do so.” Enough said.

Students with disabilities or who are in need of special arrangements should see the professor as early as possible in the semester. Please note that in order to qualify for consideration of special accommodations, the student must be registered with the MSU Office of Disability Services, and the professor must receive a memo on file from that office, along with the Special Accommodations Request form.

Social justice is one of MSU’s stated core values, and the professor considers the classroom to be a place where students will be treated with respect as human beings, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age or ability. It is the professor’s expectation that ALL students be able to consider the classroom a safe environment. Be civil at all times and focus on understanding the material being discussed.
**Cell phone use in class is prohibited.** If your cell phone goes off during a class you may be asked to leave the classroom and receive an absence for the day. No texting. Again, you may be asked to leave the classroom. Please don’t make this an issue, just turn off the phone during our class. If other commitments are so pressing that they cannot wait until the end of the class session, it may be in the student’s best interests to reconsider the priority placed on being this class. In any case, the professor reserves the right to ask you to leave immediately or to embarrass you mercilessly if your phone/pager/beeper/ etc. makes noise during class.

Federal privacy law prohibits the professor from releasing information about students to certain parties outside of the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases the professor will not discuss students’ academic progress or other matters with their parents. Please do not have them call. Regardless of these important legal considerations, the professor’s general policy is to communicate with the students, not their parents, even when a student has signed a consent form. College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly.

In short: Be on time. Be awake. Be prepared. Be engaged. Ask questions. Study. Come ready to become a costume technician or stay home!

**Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apron Project</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Dress Project</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fabric Research Project</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Measurement Assignment</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sewing Sampler</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab Assignment</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyeing/Distressing Project</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crafts Project</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio</td>
<td>125</td>
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</tbody>
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Total points =1000

**Lab Assignment**

Each student must complete a Costume Studio lab assignment. This semester the assignment is to serve either 4 hours a week on the Costume Studio construction or running crew for *Almost, Maine* or on the construction or running crew for *The Bacchae*. These hours are separate from R&P hours and staff hours and may **not** be recorded toward these assignments. Since it is easier to schedule two afternoons a week in one location (and you will learn more that way), I recommend that you request a Costume Studio assignment for Rehearsal & Production. Theatre Student Assistants who are cast in both productions may choose to complete their lab assignment by work ALL of the weekend calls.
Cell phones are to be turned off when working in the Costume Studio during studio hours. Do NOT set your phone to vibrate and then answer it!!! If you have a crisis about this, see the professor. Should the MSU Alert system go off, we will be notified.

If you are on a costume running crew, do not even bring your cell phone or any other connectivity device to the theatre. If you are staying after the show to do laundry, you may do homework if not repairing costumes. At this time, you may have your cell phone, ipad or laptop. If you are caught using a connectivity device during your call, you will be fired from the crew, receive a 0 for your crew grade and the department chair will be notified. This may affect scholarship standing.

The Costume Studio

On some days, the class will meet in the Costume Studio. This is a **no eating, no drinking zone**. Do NOT bring food or drinks to class.

The Costume Studio will be open Monday through Friday 8:00am – noon for you to use in preparing projects. Other times may be available by arrangement with the professor. Under no circumstances will students be allowed to use studio equipment during regular studio hours (except during times established by the professor). Do NOT rely on Costume Studio staff members to assist you - they may be learning this at the same time you are!

Lab Kit of Sewing Supplies

The student is responsible for purchasing his/her own sewing supplies. The required supplies can be purchased at any sewing supply store. Students MUST have their own supplies - you MAY NOT share a kit with another student. Be sure to mark all your supplies with your initials or name. You will need:

- 1 package assorted hand needles
- sewing box (NOT a plastic bag!)
- tracing wheel
- tracing paper
- tailor's chalk
- hem gauge
- seam ripper
- measuring tape
- pin cushion or pin magnet and pins
- fabric shears (You can buy an inexpensive pair. I will have a form to order quality scissors for those who chose that option - around $20 for a $40 pair of scissors.)

By accepting this syllabus, you are indicating that you understand and accept all the instructor's policies listed herein.
Class Schedule

Here is a tentative schedule for the semester. Should there be a change in due dates or the number of assignments, presentations, or tests the instructor will alert students in advance and adjust as needed.

Act One

Tuesday, August 28
In class: Orientation. Complete hours schedule.
Homework: Read Chapter 1 The Costume Shop.

Thursday, August 30
In class: Discuss Chapter 1.
Homework: Read Chapter 2 Health and Safety in the Costume Shop.

Tuesday, September 4
In class: Discuss Chapter 2.
Homework: Finish reading Chapter 2

Thursday, September 6
In class: Finish discussing Chapter 2.
Homework: Read Chapter 3 Fabrics.

Friday, September 7
1:00 – 2:00 Learning the Machine #1
2:10 – 3:10 Learning the Machine #2
3:20 – 4:20 Learning the Machine #3

Monday, September 10
1:00 – 2:00 Learning the Machine #4

Tuesday, September 11
Homework: Choose fabric for the apron project.

Thursday, September 13
In class: Apron demo. Sign up for apron construction times.
Homework: Read Chapter 6 Fitting and Alterations

*** Saturday, September 15 Possible shop call for Period Style & Movement Costumes ***
Act Two

Monday, September 17
1:00 – 2:15   Apron #1
2:15 – 3:30   Apron #2
3:30 – 4:45   Apron #3

Tuesday, September 18
In class:    Discuss Chapter 6.
Homework:  Work on Little Dress Project and fabric research project.

Wednesday, September 19
1:00 – 2:15   Apron #4

Thursday, September 20
In class:    Demonstrate fittings using “Almost, Maine” costumes.
Homework:  Work on apron project.

Tuesday, September 25
In class:    Fabric research projects.
Homework:  Finish apron project.

Thursday, September 27
In class:    Aprons due. Fabric research projects. Sign up for which day to learn handwork techniques.
Homework:  Bring kit to class next week.

*** See “Almost, Maine” this week ***

Tuesday, October 2
In class:    Handwork group #1.
Homework:  Practice handwork.

Thursday, October 4
In class:    Handwork group #2.
Homework:  Practice handwork.

Act Three

Tuesday, October 9
In class:    Discuss “Almost, Maine” costumes
Homework:  Read Chapter 8   Hair and Hats

Thursday, October 11
In class:    Discuss Chapter 8. Sewing sampler part 1 due.
Homework:  Read Chapter 9   Costume Accessories and Properties

Tuesday, October 16
In class:    Discuss Chapter 9. Assign crafts projects.
Homework:  Find pattern and fabric(s) for crafts projects. Dress for quick changes.

Thursday, October 18
In class:    Quick change day. Sign up for crafts projects days.
Homework:  Sign up for times to work on crafts project.

*** October 19   Costume Sale 4:00 – 6:00pm. Come and shop!! ***
October 20  Possible shop call for “The Bacchae”  ****

Monday, October 22
1:00 – 2:15  Crafts project #1
2:15 – 3:30  Crafts project #2
3:30 – 4:45  Crafts project #3

Tuesday, October 23
  In class:  Surprise day!
  Homework:  Work on crafts project.

Wednesday, October 24
  1:00 – 2:15  Crafts project #4

Thursday, October 25
  In class:  Sewing sampler part 2 due.  Sign up for second set of crafts project days.
  Homework:  Work on crafts projects.

Act Four

Monday, October 29
  1:00 – 2:15  Crafts project #5
2:15 – 3:30  Crafts project #6
3:30 – 4:45  Crafts project #7

Tuesday, October 30
  In class:  Fabric testing
  Homework:  Read chapter 7  Fabric Dyeing and Distressing.

Wednesday, October 31
  1:00 – 2:15  Crafts project #8

Thursday, November 1
  In class:  Crafts projects due.  Discuss chapter 7
  Homework:  Wear grubbies to class next time.

Tuesday, November 6
  In class:  Fabric Dyeing and Distressing – hands-on.
  Homework:  Wear grubbies to class next time.

Thursday, November 8
  In class:  Fabric Dyeing and Distressing – hands-on.
  Homework:  Relax and enjoy the show!!!
*** See “The Bacchae” this week ***

Tuesday, November 13
In class: Assign Little Dress Project. Choose fabric to work on dress. Hand out directions. Sign up for times to start working on project.

Homework: Read directions for project.

Thursday, November 15
In class: Demo little dress project.
Homework: Work on project.

1:00 – 2:15 Little dress project #1

November 16
1:00 – 2:15 Little dress project #2

Act Five

Monday, November 19
1:00 – 2:15 Little dress project #3
2:15 – 3:30 Little dress project #4

Tuesday, November 20
In class: Discuss costumes for “The Bacchae”. Sign up for little dress times.
Homework: Read Chapter 10 Managing, Supervising, or Directing the Costume Shop and Chapter 11 Computers in the Costume Shop.

Thursday, November 22
No class – Happy Turkey Day!!!!

Tuesday, November 27
In class: Discuss Chapters 10 and 11.
Homework: Work on little dress.
1:00 – 2:15 Little dress project #5
2:15 – 3:30 Little dress project #6

Wednesday, November 28
1:00 – 2:15 Little dress project #7

Thursday, November 29
In class: Course evaluations. Review for test.
Homework: Finish little dress
1:00 – 2:15 Little dress project #8

Monday, December 3
1:00 pm Little Dress Project due!!!

Tuesday, December 4
In class: Test
Homework: Relax! Study for your other classes.

Thursday, December 6
In class: Go over test. Discuss final.
Homework: Finish your portfolio!!!!
Final Exam
Tuesday, December 11  1:00 – 3:00pm
Present your portfolio and discuss the semester’s work.
The CD will go in your advising file so be sure you keep a copy!
Location to be determined