

THEA 3341 Principles of Costuming

CRN 13858

T/TH 9:00am-10:20am

Rm D271

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Technical Theatre Coordinator

Costume Shop Supervisor

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Office hours: By appointment, RmD271

Mon-Thurs 10:30am-11:30am Fri 12:30-1:30pm

Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to theatrical costume construction. Students will learn the fundamentals of character analysis, costume design, and costume construction through practical application.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course students will understand...

- The process of costume construction from script to realized costume.
- Pattern terminology and symbols used by industry professionals.
- Fundamentals of textile science.
- The mechanics of sewing and overlock machines.

Upon completion of this course students will have practical application...

- In fabric cutting
- In machine and hand stitching
- Working with industry tools and equipment
- Utilizing costume patterns

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

5 Quizzes, 20 pts each = 100pts

Project Binder= 200pts

Midterm Exam= 100 pts

Fabric Inspiration/Research= 100pts

Play Attendance and Paper = 100pts

Costume Project= 300pts

Final Exam= 100pts

Total =1,000 points

A=900-1000 pts. B=800-899 pts. C=700-799 pts. D=600-699 pts. F=599 and below

***Extra Credit:** 1hr=1pt You can earn up to 20pts extra credit by assisting in the Costume Shop. Points will be applied to your lowest grade, not to your final grade for the course. Last Day to complete extra credit hours is November 30th. A timesheet will be provided which must be signed by me or a Teaching Assistant. Hours must be done in blocks of 2 hours, between 12:30pm-5:00pm Monday-Friday.

COURSE POLICIES

- **Attendance/participation:** This course requires students to physically attend each class. Absences will put you behind on your projects. Class participation is crucial for your success in this course.
- **Late work, make up exams/quizzes:** Late work will not be accepted and make up exam/quizzes will not be given unless you have registered with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS), are involved in a UTEP event, have a documented emergency, or have a doctor's note. If you are involved in a UTEP event during class time, you must bring a signed letter from the Dean of Students excusing your absence in advance.

*Note: that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is therefore important to reach out to me—in advance if possible—and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.

- **Course drop:** To drop this class you must contact the Registrar's Office at: records@utep.edu or by phone at: (915) 747-5544. It is your responsibility to drop/withdraw. If you do not, you may

be at risk of receiving a grade of “F” for this course. Please contact me first if you think you cannot complete the course.

- **Incompletes:** A grade of “I” or Incomplete will not be given. This is reserved for documented emergencies and depends upon class standing.
- **Accommodations:** The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodation will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship for the University. Students requesting accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services at www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass.
- **Scholastic integrity:** It is the official policy of the University that all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty must be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) at: www.utep.edu/studentaffairs/osccr for investigation and appropriate disposition. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. * Note: using AI technology, ChatGPT for example, is prohibited in this course and will be considered scholastic dishonesty.

COURSE RESOURCES

- **Costume Shop:** Monday-Friday, 12:30pm-5:00pm. Hours may vary depending on UTEP closures and Department events. Costume shop faculty, staff, student employees, and practicum class construct costumes for the Department of Theatre and Dance productions during this time and are not obligated to assist you with class projects. Depending on costume production workload, equipment may not be available to you. Please ask for permission to work on class projects.
- **Blackboard:** The course syllabus, calendar, description of assignments, specific tutorials, and presentations will be available on Blackboard. Please check Blackboard frequently.

COSTUME SHOP POLICIES

- Food and drinks are not allowed around workspaces and must be consumed outside of the costume shop.
- Friends, family, etc. are not allowed to loiter in the costume shop while you work on your projects.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- **Script:** *Anna in the Tropics* by Nilo Cruz
** Digital copy available from UTEP library!*
- **Suggested reading:** *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy
** Digital copy available from UTEP library!*

- **Project Supplies:**

1yd muslin
seam ripper
black thread (100% polyester)
tracing wheel
7" invisible zipper
7" closed end zipper
hand sewing needles
straight pins
measuring tape
pin cushion
new scissors for cutting fabric
snips or small scissors
chalk tracing paper (wax-free!)
clear bobbins
**sewing kits are available at sewing and craft stores.*

Binder 1.5" or 2"
Clear plastic binder sleeves

Fabric, thread, and notions
**will discuss this later for costume project*

- **Technology:** Some course content will be on Blackboard. Ensure your UTEP email account is working and that you have access to the Internet. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for

Blackboard. You will need to have access to a computer/laptop. You may need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

You can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties, contact the UTEP Help Desk. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance.

- **Play Attendance:** There are four free performances of "Posdata" from 10/26- 10/29. These four performances will be off campus at different venues throughout El Paso. Another opportunity to watch a performance for free is to sign up to be an usher. You must commit to the full time you are needed. If you are a "no show" or leave early, you will not receive credit for seeing the show and will not be allowed to usher for future events. A sign-up sheet for each play will be provided one month before opening night.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- We will discuss body types, body measurements, and reference female and male body types as required in costume construction and character analysis. Assignments may require students to take body measurements of each other which means physical contact. If you require accommodation, please let me know in advance.

- **Subject Matter:** The performing arts have the power to stir strong emotions, or possibly touch on subjects you might not feel comfortable watching or reading. If you have concerns about any plays or discussing specific subjects, please reach out to me as soon as possible to discuss accommodation. I expect all discussions—including any that may occur outside of class—to be conducted in a respectful and professional matter.

- **Syllabus Change Policy:** This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change at my discretion.

COURSE CALENDAR

| | TUESDAY | THURSDAY |
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| WEEK 1- 8/29 & 8/31 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome! • What is costume design/construction? • Syllabus/calendar review | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety training • Tools & equipment tutorials • Explain project binder |
| WEEK 2- 9/5 & 9/7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terminology • Body measurements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to textiles • Fabric grain |
| WEEK 3- 9/12 & 9/14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pattern layout • Fabric cutting tutorial | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QUIZ #1 A1, SC1 & 2 • Cut ½” scale bodices |
| WEEK 4- 9/19 & 9/21 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to sewing machine • Practice stitching | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QUIZ #2 A1, SC3 & 4 • Sew ½” scale bodices • Pressing tutorial |
| WEEK 5- 9/26 & 9/28 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to serger/overlock • Serge ½” scale bodices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QUIZ #3 A1, SC5 & A2, SC1 • Continue sewing and serging bodices |
| WEEK 6- 10/3 & 10/5 *“Damn Yankees” (DT) opens 10/6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zipper tutorial | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QUIZ #4 A2, SC 2 & 3 • Buttons & button holes |
| WEEK 7- 10/10 & 10/12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand stitching tutorial | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QUIZ #5 A2, SC 4 & 5 • Sewing hardware |
| WEEK 8- 10/17 & 10/19 * “Posdata” opens (June) 10/19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Anna in the Tropics • Explain Costume Project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MID TERM EXAM • Project Binder Due |
| WEEK 9- 10/24 & 10/26 * “Damn Yankees” (DT) closes 10/22 * “Posdata” closes 10/22 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fabric Presentations: research and inspiration for fabric choices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Day- cut fabric for Costume project |
| WEEK 10- 10/31 & 11/2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Day with sewing tutorial- Costume Project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Day with sewing tutorial-Costume Project • Posdata or Damn Yankees Paper due |
| WEEK 11- 11/7 & 11/9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Day with sewing tutorial- Costume Project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Day with sewing tutorial- Costume Project |
| WEEK 12- 11/14 & 11/16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Day with sewing tutorial- Costume Project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Day with sewing tutorial- Costume Project |

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| WEEK 13- 11/21 & 11/23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Day with sewing tutorial- Costume Project | UTEP CLOSED |
| WEEK 14- 11/28 & 11/30 <i>* “Metamorphoses” (Wise) opens 12/1!</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Day with sewing tutorial- Costume Project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Day with sewing tutorial- Costume Project |
| WEEK 15- 12/5 & 12/7 <i>*”Metamorphoses” (Wise) closes 12/10!</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Day with sewing tutorial- Costume Project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Day with sewing tutorial- Costume Project |
| WEEK 16- 12/12 & 12/14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FINAL EXAM 10:00AM-12:45PM • Present Costume Project | NO CLASS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metamorphoses paper due |