

Principles of Costuming

THEA 3341: Fall 2021

Instructor: Nicole Read

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TUE/THURS 9:00-10:20AM

Costume Shop Rm. 271D, Fox Fine Arts

Office Hours:

WED 10:30-11:30AM & by appointment

Course Description:

Principles of Costuming is a course that focuses on practical skills involved in the basics of theatrical costuming. Students learn introductory costume construction and costume design techniques through a series of hands-on projects.

Course Objectives:

In this course, students will acquire:

- A basic understanding of the costume design process and learn how to express character through costume
- Basic hand sewing skills, fabric manipulation, and costume craft techniques
- Basic knowledge of garment construction from a commercial pattern
- An understanding of the amount of labor and skills needed to create costumes

Required Text and Materials:

Students will be required to provide the following materials for the course on their own:

- Sewing Kit: Can be found at Walmart, JOANN fabric, Hobby Lobby, and most craft stores. (if ordering online- recommended: <https://www.wawak.com/Sewing/Sewing-Accessories/Sewing-Kits/allary-compact-sewing-kit-wzipper-pouch/?sku=KIT9>)
- Commercial Sewing Pattern: Simplicity 3935 (recommended: https://www.amazon.com/Simplicity-Childrens-Womens-Pajamas-Pattern/dp/B000XOC5CE/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=sewing+pattern+pajamas&qid=1593460118&sr=8-2)
- Cotton fabric (no knit or stretch) for Pattern Project *
- Elastic for Pattern Project *
- Basic set of acrylic or watercolor paints
- Paintbrushes (recommended: 1 round, 1 flat)
- 11x14 Mixed Media Art Paper (at least 5 sheets)
- Graphite Transfer Paper (optional, but recommended)



Students will not be required to purchase a textbook for this class; a full course packet and all the necessary scripts will be provided via Blackboard for all required reading materials. Students will also be provided with a Materials Packet including the following: 2 pre-prepped muslin fabric squares, 1 bag of assorted closures (for Closures Sampler), and 1 bag of 10 fabric swatches (for Fabric Identification).

How to be Successful in this Class

- ✚ Check both your UTEP email and Blackboard daily. Announcements, updates, reminders, and other important information will appear here that will help you with your class.
- ✚ Read all assigned Course Readings- this includes module chapters, scripts, and all presentations. The information you need to be successful in the course is all here!
- ✚ Practice your skills before starting your project submissions. This goes for sewing, painting, and everything in-between! Don't make your first attempt your final grade.
- ✚ Make yourself aware of the due dates on the Student Calendar and plan accordingly!
- ✚ Try to stay ahead. Staying a little ahead of your deadlines will ensure that if you have questions or need feedback that you will be able to get a response from the instructor with enough time to make a difference.
- ✚ Don't hesitate to contact your instructor or request meetings if you need help!

Attendance and Participation

Attendance in this course is necessary. This is a hands-on, lab-based class in which you are not only graded for the final product but also your process.

- ✚ If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to review the course materials on Blackboard and/or communicate with your instructor about what you missed.
- ✚ Similarly, if you are tardy to class, you will miss most explanations and demonstrations as they occur in the beginning of class.
- ✚ Many projects for the course cannot be taken home and need to be completed using materials and equipment in the classroom; be aware that your absences will affect your ability to complete your work on time.
- ✚ If you start to fall behind, please schedule a meeting with me. I am committed to your success in this course, but I can only be sympathetic to situations that I am aware of!

Deadlines and Late Work

All assignments in this course will have a set deadline for completion to receive full credit. Most work can be submitted late, with the final due date being the last day of class before finals. Any late work will receive a standard point deduction equivalent to one letter grade. If the assignment submission includes a presentation, you will not be able to receive presentation points unless you submit a video presentation to Blackboard. If an assignment does not qualify for late submission, it will be noted by the instructor.

Staying on schedule for the course is important for successful completion of the class. If you are having difficulty with assignments or require special arrangements to meet the course requirements, you should contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Final Exam

The Final Exam will be cumulative and will cover all material presented throughout the semester. Students can prepare for the final exam by answering the review questions found at the end of each chapter in their course packet, or by checking the Final Exam Review posted on Blackboard.

Policies

- ✚ The syllabus provides pertinent information about class policies and expectations. It is the student's responsibility to read it, understand it, and follow it. It is the responsibility of the student to fulfill all the requirements to the best of her/his abilities. If a student is unclear about anything on the syllabus, they should seek clarification from the instructor.
- ✚ Students must have access to UTEP email and Blackboard and check them regularly.
- ✚ It is the responsibility of the student to stay on schedule for the course. Communications with the instructor should expect a response within 24 hrs. Monday through Friday. Questions that regard an assignment should not wait until the last minute, as they may not be answered in time to meet course deadlines.
- ✚ Photo/Video presentations/submissions may be required for some projects, it is the student's responsibility to have access to resources to take photos/videos to be turned in for class projects.
- ✚ Due dates will be posted by assignment on Blackboard in addition to those listed on the syllabus. Meetings with the instructor will be scheduled separately.
- ✚ Any materials needed outside of the Materials Packet will be the responsibility of the student to acquire as needed.
- ✚ Retain all class projects and assignments until grades are posted at the end of the semester.
- ✚ Students must behave in accordance with all rules put forth by the Handbook of Operating Procedures of the University of Texas at El Paso.
- ✚ Students must adhere to the safety policies set forth by the University and the Costume Shop to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- ✚ Any student who, because of a disabling condition, requires special arrangements to meet course requirements should contact the instructor in person as soon as possible. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. Any request for special accommodations must be presented by the second week of class.

COVID-19 Precautions

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.

Academic Dishonesty Statement

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation, according to the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at the University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.

Play Reviews/ Subject Matter

Students will be asked to write a response paper focusing on the costume design elements of a theatrical performance for their final project.

The performing arts have a power to stir strong emotions, or possibly touch on subjects you might not feel comfortable seeing on stage. If you have concerns about viewing or discussing specific subjects, please see me as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations. As I will respect your individual's rights to choose what shows you want to see, I expect all our discussions—including any that may occur outside of class—to be conducted in a respectful and professional manner.

Assignments:

Project 1: Hand Sewing

Total Points: 125

This project focuses on basic hand sewing skills including 4 different stitches and closures. These skills will help you create hems for garments, repair damages, and add necessary closures for garments.

- Hand Sewing: Stitches 50pts
 - Hand Sewing: Closures 50pts
 - Hand Sewing Quiz 25pts
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Project 2: Commercial Pattern Project

Total Points: 225

This project will teach you how to use a sewing machine and work with a commercial sewing pattern. You will also learn about fabric types, taking measurements, and buying fabric and notions.

- Fabric Identification Worksheet 50pts
 - Commercial Pattern Worksheet 50pts
 - Sewing Machine Quiz 25pts
 - Commercial Pattern Project 100pts
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Project 3: Costume Design

Total Points: 300

In this project you will acquire a basic understanding of the costume design process and learn how to express character through costume. You will work on skills including script analysis for costuming, sketching/drawing the human figure, and painting renderings.

- Script Analysis- "Miss Julie" 50pts
 - Design Preparation & Research 50pts
 - Design Meeting 50pts
 - Sketches & Swatches 50pts
 - "Miss Julie" Costume Renderings 100pts
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Project 4: Costume Crafts

Total Points: 150

This project will focus on designing and assembling a found-object costume craft project that prioritizes creativity and resourcefulness.

- Character Analysis Worksheet 50pts
- Design Meeting/ Mask Rendering 50pts
- Mask Craft Project 50pts

Project 5: Dye Project

Total Points: 50

This project will give you the opportunity to create your own tie-dye project, working with the concepts of color mixing, dye application, and resists.

- Tie-Dye Project 50pts

Project 6: Play Review

Total Points: 50

For this project you will attend a production and consider the costume elements. You will write a paper discussing your thoughts on costumes using the knowledge that you have gained through your projects to think about design, construction, and wardrobe. It is requested that you prioritize productions by the UTEP Theatre and Dance department. Information on these productions and the topics for your papers will be provided as it is available.

- Play Review Paper 50pts

Final Exam

Total Points: 100

The Final Exam for this course will be cumulative. If you have a conflict that prevents you from taking the exam on the scheduled day, please let your instructor know as soon as possible to schedule an alternative time.

- Final Exam 100pts

Total Points Possible: 1000
