
Costume Construction TH 163



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MW 3-3:35, 3:50-4:40

Costume Shop UCA 226

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Office Hours:

In person: MW 11-1, Zoom: TTR 2-4PM

I. Course Description

Each participant will learn methods of construction used by theatrical costume shops to create costumes used in entertainment. They will gain practical hands-on experience sewing a range of hand and machine stitches, create garments by drafting, draping and using commercial patterns, and apply a variety of couture techniques used to create costumes and accessories for the entertainment industry.

II. Course Aims and Outcomes:

Aims

We all wear clothes. To that end, consider this class to be a life skills class. What you learn in this course will not only prepare you to work in a costume shop and give you a deeper understanding of costume construction, you will garner techniques and strategies to create your own garments and know how to mend your favorite clothes. Eventually this will save you tons of money and you could quite possibly become the envy of your friends with your unique threads!

Specific Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Be able to identify and perform basic hand and machine stitches and know when it is appropriate to use them by completing a variety of samples and class projects.
2. Be able to operate a sewing machine including the ability to thread a machine, wind a bobbin, start and stop sewing, know the basic parts on a machine, and more through practical use.
3. Be able to envision and complete the construction process of a garment from markings and instructions from a commercial garment pattern.
4. Have the ability to draft and create their own garment pattern.
5. Be able to take measurements of another person and be able to identify if a garment will fit that person.
6. Create their own sloper or "body block".
10. Identify different fabrics and fibers, understanding properties as they relate to costume design.

III. Texts and Supplies

Texts

There are various sources I will use including video, readings, etc. If you would like to build your library with handy sources here are a few I strongly recommend. If there is a reading assignment it will be found on our Canvas class site.

Recommended Texts:

Vogue Sewing

Vogue Sewing. (2000). New York: Harper & Row.

The Costume Technician's Handbook

Ingham, Rosemary, and Liz Covey. *The Costume Technicians Handbook*, by Rosemary Ingham. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2003.

The New Complete Guide to Sewing (A.K.A. the "Reader's Digest Book")

New Complete Guide to Sewing: Step-by-Step Techniques for Making Clothes and Home Accessories. Pleasantville, NY: Readers Digest Association, 2011.

Collect sewing books! It is great to have many sources to pull from when you do not understand how to do a technique.

I will recommend many more sources as the semester progresses.

Class Supplies

You will receive a small kit, please find a container with a handle, art box, or structured bag to house all of it in. Your course fee paid for much of your materials including your sewing kit, but it cannot pay for all therefore, I need you to supply some of your own materials for the last projects. You are welcome to use materials out of stock, with approval of myself or Elise, but most-likely there will not be enough or you will not find it suits your taste.

Required Supplies

- Trim or extra decorations for your class projects
- Fabric for your flat pattern project
- 3 Yards of woven cotton or flannel fashion fabric, washed
- Sketchbook and pencils as needed
- Plastic sheet protectors for samples in binder

IV. Grading

Evaluation of preparation, research, and execution of class projects, coupled with attendance and participation, will be considered in assignment of the course grade. Grades are assigned on a traditional A through F scale using points to calculate percentages.

Samplers:

All samples will be handed in on due date, attached to the appropriate section in text, in sheet protectors in a folder or binder). If we go online, you will take a photo front and back of each sample and upload it to the appropriate assignment page.

Sampler I: Hand Stitches- 7 in all.

Sampler II: Machine techniques- 4 total, including the two machine sewing exercises.

Sampler III: Hand Sewn Fasteners- 7 total.

Sampler IV: Seam Samples- 11 total.

Projects:

Project I: Pin cushion project. In this project you will create a small pin cushion of your very own to keep. You are welcome to use scrap fabric from the costume shop to create this pin cushion. All directions will be on our Canvas website including a step-by-step how to video by yours truly.

Project II: Commercial garment construction a.k.a. the pajama pant project. You will create a pair of pajama pants. These can be for yourself or a present for a friend. They must be wearable, finished with hems, closures, seams, etc. You will be given a commercial pattern for this project but are required to purchase fabric of your choice.

Project III: Flat pattern sloper. You will learn to create a sloper from your own measurements that will be the foundation for any garment including the next project. Muslin will be provided. Time your process from beginning to end.

Project IV: Project IV: Draped sloper. You will drape 1/2 a front and 1/2 back body block and create paper patterns. Time your process from beginning to end. With this you will take detailed notes comparing the processes, time spent, and fit of slopers created two ways: drafting vs draping.

Project V (Final): Design your own garment. You will alter a commercial pattern or create an original pattern from a drafted or draped sloper. Four weeks of class will be devoted to creating and completing this project. There will be a fashion show via zoom at the end of the semester where students will be wearing their completed projects.

Maximum Points Possible

Sampler I (Hand sewing)	70 (7 Samples 10 Points Each)
Sampler II (Machine)	40 (4 Samples 10 Points Each)
Sampler III (Fastners)	70 (7 Samples 10 Points Each)
Project I	60
Project II	160
Machine Quiz	20

Sampler IV (Seams)	110 (11 Samples at 10 each)
Project (III)	100
Project (IV)	100
Fabric Bingo	60
Project (V) Final	200
TOTAL:	1405

Grading Scale (pluses and minuses will be used):

A: 95-100, A-:90-94

B +:87-89, B: 83-86, B-:80-82

C: 70-79

D: 60-69

F: < 60

V. Tentative Course Schedule

(May change to accommodate guest presenters & student needs)

Date	Topic/ Outcomes	Reading/Video Due Before Class	Assignment	Group Meeting TODAY
Week 1 8/24	Introductions, costume shop tour. Hand out supplies and materials.		Pin Cushion Project; Hand Stitches	A Group
8/26	Continue hand stitching samples	Vogue Hand Stitches PDF; PinCushion Project Video; Intro Video		B Group

<p>Week 2 9/3</p>	<p>Assign dress forms, label sewing machines, review cleaning protocol, group names. Answer questions about samplers. Today's new skill!!!The sewing machine! Intro to parts and functions, threading machine, winding bobbin, etc. Introduction to the serger. Begin machine samples. Thread machines, wind bobbins, do Machine sampler in class.</p>	<p>Sewing Machine Video. Low Stakes Sewing Machine Quiz</p>	<p>Bring Hand samples and pin cushions with questions or to show off! Or ask in discussion page in module 2 any questions you may have about the pincushion or sampler.</p>	<p>A Group</p>
<p>9/5</p>	<p>Repeat</p>			<p>B Group</p>
<p>Week 3 9/10</p>	<p>Labor Day</p>			
<p>9/12</p>	<p>Fabrics- weaves and fibers. Pin cushions and hand sewing samplers due today. Play Fabric Bingo- finish at home.</p>	<p>Watch Fabrics lecture. Check in your machine samples.</p>	<p>FF: Show us your pin cushion. Check in your hand stitches O: Upload glamour shots of your pincushion. Upload pics of your hand stitch samples (front and back) to assignment.</p>	<p>A 3-3:50 B 4-4:50</p>

<p>Week 4 9/17</p>	<p>Commercial Patterns and Measurements: how to read a commercial pattern, how to choose which size to cut, how to figure out how much fabric you need and which notions to buy.</p>	<p>Watch:How to measure video and Commercial Pattern Review. Read: Taking measurements and look at measurement sheets.</p>	<p>Take measurements in class or at home of yourself. Go buy your fabric!</p>	<p>A Group</p>
<p>9/19</p>				<p>B Group</p>
<p>Week 5 9/24</p>	<p>Garment Finishing: Seams and seam finishes; learn how to finish garments, learn variety of seam finishes and hems.</p>	<p>Watch: Seam finishes- the more difficult techniques. Discussion: Questions and comments about difficulty of finishes. Read vogue seam finishes PDF.</p>	<p>Fabric must be washed, dried and pressed by class today. We will start cutting in class.</p>	<p>A Group</p>
<p>9/26</p>				<p>B Group</p>

Week 6 10/1	Special Techniques: clipping curves, under stitching, sleeve setting. Handout neck pattern, sloper pattern, and sleeve pattern. Machine made button holes- do this in class.	Read Vogue Special Techniques PDF	Finish up seam samples at home. PJ pants are due!	A Group
10/3				B Group
Week 7 10/8	Flat Patterning: Create flat pattern from 1/2 scale measurements.	Read chapter on flat pattern.	Due Today: Sampler III: Seam samples. 1/2 scale dress form measurements.	A Group
10/10				B Group
Week 8 10/15	Fitting garments, how to transfer markings, fitting etiquette	Watch: Video-fitting a sloper.	Fit your drafted sloper mockup and transfer to new pattern. KEEP old and new pattern to compare.	A Group
10/17				B Group

Week 9 10/22	Pattern drafting continued: Flat patterning. Introduction to slopers and dart manipulation.	Watch: Video slash and spread, dart pivoting	Flat patterned 1/2 scale sloper due today. Homework: Create pattern where you move one of your darts and design sleeves. Cut and put together. Take pics on form. Take pattern pics.	A Group
10/24				B Group
Week 10 10/29	Fasteners: Hand fasteners, buttons, snaps, hook and eye, machine button holes, plackets.	Watch: Fastener Video.	Present your designs for 1/2 scale project. FF: Bring questions related to project. O: add questions to discussion board.	A Group
10/31				B Group
Week 11 11/5	Zippers! Learn to install zippers two ways	Read: Vogue Zippers	Finish zippers in class, work on 1/2 scale design in class. When finished zipper upload to discussion with video unzipping. Zipping.	A Group
11/7				B Group
Week 12 11/12	Draping	Watch: Video draping sloper on 1/2 scale.	Discussion: compare how the creation and execution of flat pattern vs draped pattern compare. Which do you prefer?	A Group
11/14				B Group

Week 13 11/19	Final project assigned.			A Group
11/21			Due Today: Project VI: Masks	B Group
Week 14 FALL BREAK				
Week 15 12/3			Add questions to discussion board about project.	A Group
12/5				B Group
Week 16 12/10			Work in class	A Group
12/12				B Group
FINAL: 12/19 9:40-11:40 AM	Model your final project.		Whew! You're done!	

VI. Class Rules, Attendance, Costume Shop Policies, University Policies

The Rules in this class that will help you the rest of your life (adapted from Holly Poe-Durbin).

1. **You must show up to succeed.** Note Woody Allen's formula- 90 % of the work is just showing up. Please consult the attendance policy if you have questions.
2. **You will be a success if...!** You arrive on time, are prepared, curious, excited, engaged, and ready to collaborate.
3. **Cell phone policy:** there may be a need to research on technology at times, but if you are distracting yourself and others with technology I will consider you absent and ask you to leave. You may listen to music during **lab hours** but must have one ear free at all times and volume must be quiet enough so that it doesn't disrupt your fellow students or instructor.
4. If you have a sick child, grandmother, or dog and are awaiting to be called away to

go to the doctors, pull the plug, or help Fluffy cross over the rainbow bridge, talk to me BEFORE class and I can accommodate you.

5. **Turn in your work on time!** We all have cars that break down, bad hair days, traffic, weather, kids, pets, or even stayed up too late “studying” the night before. Unless there are extreme circumstances (being whisked away by a tornado and landing in Oz might qualify, but I would want to see your ruby slippers and a flying monkey to be sure) I will **decrease your project grade 10% each day it is late.**
6. **R-E-S-P-E-C-T!** As an adult, you are responsible to maintain a positive behavior that is considerate of others. That means- be respectful. Respect others by recognizing their personal space and needs equal to your own. Do not leave your work area a mess when you leave, keep personal conversations to a minimum and at an acceptable noise level (quiet). Be respectful of me, your instructor. Pay attention to my instruction and lectures, after all, you or your parents are paying for me to tell you this stuff. In turn I will respect you and your right to ideas and opinions. However, if I feel you are disrupting class, I will ask you to leave.

Attendance:

Attendance in this class is mandatory. After 2 unexcused absences, your final grade will lower by one part of a letter grade for each subsequent absence (3 absences = A lowers to B etc.) Tardiness is also unacceptable- two tardies will count as an absence. Theatre production commitments, roles or responsibilities can never be used as an excuse to miss classes. Permission will not be granted to miss a class for appointments, interviews, auditions, costume fittings, rehearsals, outside employment, etc. Students may miss a class only with the express permission in advance of their class instructor. Students who are ill should communicate with their instructors as soon as possible after missing a class. Students who are ill and have to miss more than one class should seek medical care and provide documentation. Except in the case of illness, only your instructor can approve absence from class. Provisions to allow for religious holidays, emergencies, and University Sanctioned Absences will be made.

Costume Shop Policy

CSU's Costume Shop runs as both a classroom/lab and a center for the UCA's busy production schedule. As a result, time and resources must be shared and respected. The Costume Shop will be made available during class hours, as well as every Monday

- Friday 8:00 – 12:00 and 1:00 – 5:00 and a few select weekend mornings as indicated. In addition, we all need to make sure that we clean up after ourselves. Each person will be assigned a machine, and it is their responsibility to keep their machine area tidy and in good order. In addition to the machine areas, in-progress projects must be placed in bins located under the worktables (also labeled), and worktables must be left free of any clutter.

Health and Safety

Please note that there are certain occupational hazards associated with working in a Costume Shop. These are including but not limited to various small scrapes and jabs with sharp objects, burns and various strains (especially on the hands). Throughout this course you will be taught the safe and proper way to limit your chances of injury. If you have any questions or issues that you would like to discuss, please feel free to speak with me privately after class.

In the interest of complying with OSHA regulations, closed toed shoes must be worn at all times when in the Costume Shop.

Integrity Policy:

This course will adhere to the CSU Academic Integrity Policy as found on the Student Responsibilities page of the [CSU General Catalog](#) and in the [Student Conduct Code](#).

At a minimum, violations will result in a grading penalty in this course and a report to the Office of Student Resolution Center.

Title IX:

CSU's Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking and Retaliation policy designates faculty and employees of the University as "Responsible Employees." This designation is consistent with federal law and guidance, and requires faculty to report information regarding students who may have experienced any form of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking or retaliation. This includes information shared with faculty in person, electronic communications or in class assignments. As "Responsible Employees," faculty may refer students to campus resources (see below), together with informing the Office of Support and Safety Assessment to help ensure student safety and welfare. Information regarding sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking and retaliation is treated with the greatest degree of confidentiality possible while also ensuring student and campus safety.

Any student who may be the victim of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking or retaliation is encouraged to report to CSU through one or more of the following resources:

- Emergency Response 911
- Deputy Title IX Coordinator/Office of Support and Safety Assessment (970) 491-1350
- Colorado State University Police Department (non-emergency) (970) 491-6425

For counseling support and assistance, please see the CSU Health Network, which includes a variety of counseling services that can be accessed at: <http://www.health.colostate.edu/>. And, the Sexual Assault Victim Assistance Team is a confidential student resource that does not have a reporting requirement and that can be of great help to students who have experienced sexual assault. The web address is <http://www.wgac.colostate.edu/need-help-support>.

Disclaimer

As the instructor, I reserve the right to alter the syllabus and schedule as deemed necessary. Any alterations will be presented in a fair manner and should not affect your performance in this course.

School of Music, Theatre, and Dance (SMTD) Protocol regarding Physical Contact

SMTD faculty, staff, and administration are committed to providing an outstanding performing arts education for every student enrolled. This includes the delivery of applied pedagogical concepts through a variety of delivery modes, including small studio classes, rehearsals, lecture courses, and one-on-one instruction. Some of these methods of instruction may require physical contact between teacher and student, or between students in order to properly present pedagogical topics such as fittings and alterations of costumes, etc.

With the understanding that each student responds differently to physical contact, it is the responsibility of each faculty member to communicate verbally prior to initiating physical contact of any kind, and receive permission from the student before proceeding. The faculty member must be very clear in the communication as to the specific pedagogical concept being addressed. If a student has a concern or question about physical contact between him/her/their and the teacher, the student should voice the concern to the teacher, or request another approach to the

pedagogical concept.

Should the student feel uncomfortable speaking with the instructor, the concern or question could be put in writing via a note or email to that instructor or TA.

****Important information for Students: All students should fill out a student-specific symptom checker each day before coming to class (<https://covidrecovery.colostate.edu/daily-symptom-checker/>). In addition, please utilize the symptom checker to report symptoms, if you have a positive test, or exposed to a known COVID contact. If you know or believe you have been exposed or are symptomatic, it is important for the health of yourself and others that you report it through this checker. You will not be in trouble or penalized in any way for reporting. If you report symptoms or a positive test, you will receive immediate instructions on what to do and CSU's Public Health Office will be notified. Once notified, that office will contact you and most likely conduct contact tracing, initiate any necessary public health requirements and/or recommendations and notify you if you need to take any steps. For the latest information about the University's response, please visit the CSU COVID-19 site (<https://covidrecovery.colostate.edu/>).