

Dustin K. Shaffer, M.F.A.  
Office Telephone: [REDACTED]  
Fall 2014  
Meeting Time: T & TH, 11:00a.m.-12:15p.m.

**Department:** Department of Theatre & Dance  
**Title of Course:** Costume Construction

**Course No.:** TH 251-01

**I. Catalog Descriptions and Credit Hours of Course:**

A study in basic theatre and dance costume construction, including an examination of shop organization, wardrobe maintenance, fabrics, tools, patterns, and sewing techniques. Lecture and lab sessions plus production work required. (3 credit hours)

**II. Prerequisite(s):**

None

**III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:**

- A. To develop an appreciation of theatrical costumes;
- B. To develop a basic understanding of the various materials and tools used in the costume shop;
- C. To develop and nurture artistic skills in the area of costuming and application through realized projects; and
- D. To develop a basic vocabulary associated with costumes and wardrobe.

**IV. Student Learning Outcomes:**

- A. Students will demonstrate beginning-level sewing skills
- B. Students will create a wardrobe notebook
- C. Students will safely and properly use costuming tools and machines to create costumes

**V. Expectations of Students:**

- A. Students will be expected to attend lecture and lab sessions;
- B. Students are expected to complete assigned readings;
- C. Students will be expected to perform satisfactorily on quizzes and examinations; and
- D. Students will be expected to complete assigned costume projects.

**VI. Course Outline:**

Date	Chapter	Reading	Topic
Tuesday, 8/26	Introduction, Text Book, & Needed Course Materials	Appendix I, Pgs. 155-161	Tools of the Trade
Thursday, 8/28	Costume Shop Orientation/Health & Safety in the Costume Shop		
Tuesday, 9/2	<b>Tool Quiz #1</b> Cunningham, Chapter #1	Pgs. 1-11	Hand Stitches
Thursday, 9/4	Cunningham, Chapter #1	Pgs. 12-20	Hand Stitches
Tuesday, 9/9	<b>Hand Stitches Quiz #2</b> Cunningham, Chapter #2	Pgs. 21-28	Hand Sewn Fasteners

Thursday, 9/11	Cunningham, Chapter #3	Pgs. 29-35	Machine Sewing
Tuesday, 9/16	Cunningham, Chapter #3	Pgs. 35-40	Machine Sewing
Thursday, 9/18	In-Class Work on Binders		
Tuesday, 9/23	<b>Sewing Machine Quiz #3</b> Cunningham, Chapter #4	Pgs. 41-46	Pinning & Sewing
Thursday, 9/25	Cunningham, Chapter #5	Pgs. 47-50	Seams
Tuesday, 9/30	Cunningham, Chapter #5	Pgs. 51-55	Seams
Thursday, 10/2	Cunningham, Chapter #6	Pgs. 57-63	Seam Finishes
Tuesday, 10/7	Cunningham, Chapter #7	Pgs. 65-70	Special Techniques
Thursday, 10/9	Cunningham, Chapter #8	Pgs. 71-79	Advanced Techniques
Tuesday, 10/14	Cunningham, Chapter #9	Pgs. 81-92	Fabric Basics
Tuesday, 10/21	<b>Fabric Quiz #4</b> Cunningham, Chapter #10	Pgs. 93-99	Measuring the Actor
Thursday, 10/23	Cunningham, Chapters #11 & 12	Pgs. 101-112	Pattern Making Basics & Drawstring Bag Project
Tuesday, 10/28	<b>Drawstring Bag Project</b> In-Class Work on Drawstring Bags		
Thursday, 10/30	Critique		
Tuesday, 11/4	Cunningham, Chapter #14	Pgs. 123-136	Drafting a T- Shaped Tunic
Thursday, 11/6	In-Class Work on Tunic Pattern		
Tuesday, 11/11	Cunningham, Chapter #15	Pgs. 137-149	Building the T- Shaped Tunic
Thursday, 11/13	In-Class Work on Tunic		
Tuesday, 11/18	<b>Tunic Project</b> Critique		
Thursday, 11/20	Cunningham, Chapter #16	Pgs. 151-154	Using Commercial Patterns
Tuesday, 12/2	<b>Commercial Pattern Project</b> In-Class Work on Final Project		
Thursday, 12/4	In-Class Work on Final Project		

Tuesday, 12/9	In-Class Work on Final Project		
Thursday, 12/11	In-Class Work on Final Project		

**VI. Textbook(s) and/or Other Required Materials or Equipment:**

- A. Required: *Basic Sewing for Costume Construction* by Rebecca Cunningham (ISBN 978-1-57766-613-4)
- B. You will be required to purchase various materials for sewing projects.
- 3 yards of unbleached muslin
  - 16" x 2" clear ruler
  - 8" Fiskars Orange Handled Multipurpose Scissors
  - 6 clear class 15J plastic bobbins
  - Assorted hand sewing needles (primarily sharps)
  - Measurement tape
  - Seam ripper
  - Thimble
  - Washable fabric pen (with blue & purple tips)
  - #2 Pencil
  - Yellow head quilting pins
  - Beeswax
- C. Commercial Pattern & required fabric with notions (Simplicity 2255 [F] or Simplicity 2741 [M])

**VII. Basis for Student Evaluation (1000 points possible):**

- i. Participation (100 pts.) It is expected that each student will participate and contribute in all exercises and discussions. Overall work ethic and attitude are major factors regarding the final participation grade. This includes your efforts in maintaining and cleaning the costume shop areas.
- ii. Quizzes, 4 @ 50 pts. Each (200 pts.)
- iii. Projects, 2 @ 100 pts. Each (200 pts.)
- iv. Final Project (300 pts.)
- v. Completed Costume Construction Handbook (200 pts.)

**VIII. Miscellaneous:**

Open Door Policy

My door is always open to students. If you have any questions or concerns about a project, an assignment, a grade, or anything else pertaining to your academic or professional development, please discuss the matter with me. Ninety-five percent of all questions and problems can be solved through open and direct dialogue.

Disabilities

Any student with a qualified disability should notify the professor in writing during the first week of class so that proper accommodations may be made.

Modification of Syllabus

It is the professor's prerogative to change or modify this syllabus at any point in the semester.

Assignments Due and Absences

Projects must be completed on their due date. Late work will be lowered one grade for each day it is late. You are responsible for any material given on a day you were absent. There are no makeup quizzes.