

# **FUNDEMENTALS OF COSTUME DESIGN (Introductory Design Course-undergraduate)**

Vandy Scoates

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will provide students with a working knowledge of how to design and implement costumes for the theatrical stage. Students will be able to analyze a script and create costume renderings that are appropriate to that analysis. Students will have a working knowledge of color theory as well as a basic understanding of the history of Western Fashion.

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- Comprehend, demonstrate, or articulate the value inherent in an artistic, musical, or dramatic creation
- A clear understanding of the basic principles of design
- Ability to do a script analysis with the focus on costumes
- Basic drawing and rendering skills
- Basic sewing and costume construction skills
- Understanding of internet and library research in relation to period style and design
- Comprehension of collaboration and its place in all areas of Theatre.

## **TEXTS & MATERIALS:**

### **PROVIDED TEXTS**

- *Tartuffe* by Moliere (Trans. Richard Wilber)
- *Reasons to be Pretty* by Neil Labute
- Excerpts from: *The Costume Designer Handbook* 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition by Rosemary Ingham  
ISBN: 0-435-08607-3
- Excerpts from: *Working Together in Theatre: Collaboration and Leadership* by Robert Cohen  
ISBN:978-0-230-23982-1
- Excerpts from:

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

Most of these materials can be found at your local art supply store.

- 9 x 12 or 8.5 x 11 sketch pad
- Tracing Paper
- Pencil (HB or above) & Eraser
- Mixed Media paper pad (minimum size 8.5 x 11)
- 2 different Coloring Materials. - Colored Pencils, Watercolor paint, Prisma-color markers, Digital Rendering Program (Procreate or Photoshop recommended) or other (Please discuss with me)

## **PROJECTS AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

Late projects and assignments will not be tolerated. Assignments are considered late if they are not received by 10am on the date due. **Late projects go down 1 letter grade for every class period they are late.** After two class periods they will not be accepted. The final project is due on the final exam day and will be not be accepted late.

You may turn assignments in digitally via Blackboard, email, or give a hard copy to me personally in class. Some projects will be handed in as hard copy due to the nature of the assignments but you are always welcome to scan these assignments in and turn them in digitally as well.

Please back up your homework in at least 2 places and save regularly. "My computer crashed" will not be an excuse for any assignment being turned in late.

## **COPY DRAWINGS:**

Starting in the first Tues. of class you are required to do one copy drawing per week due on Monday class period of each week. There will be a total of sixteen (16) drawings for the semester.

A “copy drawing” is a drawing you have done by coping the body from a real life photo of a human. A notebook of figures will be provided for the class and you can choose from a different figure each week. You may also find your own figures but they must be photographs, not drawings or paintings. If you are currently taking the Figure Drawing class in the Art Department you may use drawings from the class as long as they were done within a 20 min time limit.

Your drawing will have your name, date, the time it took you to do the drawing, and the photo’s numeric code (listed at the top of the photo if you are using mine). You may take the photo home with you to work on them or work on it in the building, but it must be returned to the notebook when you turn in your drawing. If you are using your own figure you must attach a photocopy of the figure you are using.

These drawings will be graded pass/fail and are worth 10% of your total grade for the class. I will not grade on artistic merit but only on whether or not the drawing was turned in with all components listed above. The purpose is to improve your drawing and observation skills in relation to costume design. The first eight (8) drawings will be on naked human forms and the second eight (8) can be of clothed individuals.

### **READINGS:**

You must read two plays for the class on which your designs will be based. These readings must be completed by the dates assigned as we will be having classroom discussions and quizzes about these plays and it is important that you have an understanding of them previous to these classes. Please read *Reasons to be Pretty* by the Wed. of week three (Jan.23) and *Tartuffe* by the Monday of week eleven (March 18).

You will also have required reading from various texts all of which will be posted on Blackboard

### **PRODUCTIONS:**

You are required to see one (1) production at this semester. Please keep your ticket stub or program and turn in with your written work as a record of your attendance.

### **WRITTEN WORK:**

#### **Production Response-**

You are required to see one (1) production at this semester. Please keep your ticket stub or program and turn in with your written work as a record of your attendance. I am looking for a clear and concise 2-3 page, double spaced paper in Garamond 12 pt. font.

#### **Review should include:**

- A detailed description of design using terms we learned in class
- A design rationale: Why do you think it was designed this way?
- Your opinion: Did the design help or hinder the piece and why?
- What moment or visual aspect of the design affected you the greatest and why?

#### **Script Analysis-**

You will write two script analysis papers for the plays we will study this semester: *Reasons to be Pretty* and *Tartuffe*. The analysis will be done in outline format and be a minimum of 2 pages double-spaced. The papers will include the given circumstance for the play that we will discuss in class. You will be given a template in class and on blackboard in which to follow for the script analysis. You must download and use this Microsoft Word template for the assignment.

You will be expected to turn in your script analysis again with your final and mid-term projects with any corrections needed. Supplemental information about script analysis will be provided and discussed in class.

#### **Concept Statement-**

The concept statement will describe your design interpretation *Tartuffe*. I would like a clear vision for your design and sound arguments to back up your concept that are based in script analysis and research. This paper must be a minimum of 1 page, double-spaced, in Garamond 12 pt. font. and will be included in your final project.

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Supplemental information about concepts will be provided and discussed in class. This information should be looked at when completing your concept statement as your grade will be based on your understanding of these documents as well as the concept statement itself.

### **PROJECTS:**

**Midterm Project-** Costume Design Collage for *Reasons to be Pretty* (15% of Final Grade)

Project will include:

- Final script analysis of show (5%)
- Costume Plot (20%)
- Research for Costume (25%)
- Costume Collage (25%)
- Design elements presentation (25%)

**Final Project-** Final Costume Design for *Tartuffe* (20% of Final Grade)

Project will include:

- Final script analysis of show (5%)
- Final Costume Plot (8%)
- Research for Costumes (20%)
- Build measurements and breakdown (7%)
- Concept Statement (10%)
- Final renderings for 5 costumes w/fabric research (25%)
- Design Elements Presentation (25%)

### **Mini Assignments:**

There will be several mini assignments throughout the semester. Due dates are on a Blackboard and the calendar and will be explained in class.

### **Extra Credit:**

Seeing a costumed production outside of the school and writing a design review will count for 3% extra credit. The extra credit production can be one at Limestone College, another college or theatre in the area. All productions must be approved by the instructor prior to due date of production response. You may do a total of two (2) extra credit responses.

There may be extra credit opportunities in the costume shop throughout the semester. These will be announced in class as they come up.

## **ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION:**

### **INSTRUCTOR ATTENDANCE POLICIES**

Attendance is very important in this class. The college expects the student to regularly attend classes. There is a great deal of information to cover in the short time. If you are not in class for discussions and lectures you will fall behind.

You are allowed 2 unexcused absences for the semester. An excused absence will only be accepted with a signed note from the doctor, your coach (for athletic events), or your advisor (for other school-sanctioned events). If you have an event I expect to know about your upcoming absence at least one (1) week in advance. I should not hear about your event the class before the expected absence. Failure to inform me of a scheduled absence will result in a 1% reduction from your final grade. After 2 unexcused absences your grade will go down 1 letter grade with each subsequent unexcused absence. **You will be considered absent for the day if you are more than five (5) minutes late to class.**

### **TARDINESS:**

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Tardiness will not be tolerated. I promise to be on time for our classes and I expect you to do the same. I will consider you tardy if you come into class after the classroom clock has struck **10:00am**.

You will be allowed two (2) tardies for a semester. After the first two (2), every subsequent two (2) tardies will be considered an unexcused absence. After three (3) unexcused absences your grade will go down one (1) letter grade with each subsequent unexcused absence. **You will be considered absent for the day if you are more than five (5) minutes late to class.**

## **CLASS PARTICIPATION:**

This class is based on discussions and learning from your classmates. You must actively participate in discussions and answer questions in order to succeed. If you are not in class you cannot participate so excessive absences will also contribute to your participation grade.

I consider good class participation to be:

- Active listening
- Asking and answering questions
- Participating in class discussions
- Making helpful comments on your classmates' and your own work
- Keeping up with assignments and readings in order to be informed for discussions

## **MATERIALS IN CLASS:**

After the first week of class you should expect to bring in most your required materials to class everyday. If you do not need materials I will try let you know the class before. I would suggest designating a bag or portable box that you can easily carry for materials.

## **GRADING:**

### **Grading Breakdown:**

Class Participation	10% of Final Grade
Two (2) Play Quizzes	10% of Final Grade
Sixteen (16) Copy Drawings	10% of Final Grade
Mini Assignments	9% of Final Grade
Sewing Project	6% of Final Grade
Production Response	10% of Final Grade
Two (2) Script Analysis	10% of Final Grade
Mid-Term Project	15% of Final Grade
Final Project	20% of Final Grade

## **GRADE PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN:**

90%-100%---A

80%-89.9%---B

70%-79.9%---C

60%-69.9%---D

## **TECHNICAL DEVICES IN CLASS:**

Cell Phones, Tablets, and Things that go "Ping": During the time that this class is meeting, please make sure that these devices are on vibrate only, silent or turned off and do not use them during class time. The first time you are texting, e-mailing or using a computer for things other than classwork or presentation during class you will be given a warning; any time after that you will be marked absent and will lose all class participation points for the day (approximately .5% of your final grade for each instance). If you have to answer the phone because of a family emergency please let me know at the beginning of class and I will accommodate appropriately.

You may take notes during class on a laptop or tablet. You **MAY NOT** be on any social media sight or email during class time unless we are doing in-class work that requires it. If we are having class in the dark or on the move you are permitted to take notes on your phone. Normal lectures notes will not be taken on your phone. Unless you have hearing difficulty that requires you to have a "hearing-aid" no "ear buds" or headphones are to be on you head during class

**A NOTE ON TECHNOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT:**

All written work should be typed and can be submitted to me as a hard copy or digitally as a **Word, PowerPoint or PDF document only**. Please submit all assignments to Blackboard. Never submit college assignments as a Google Doc or in a format other than one part of Microsoft Office unless specifically requested by your professor.

The presentation should be done as a slideshow presentation that can be submitted digitally or printed out and turned in. If you are printing a written assignment you must use Garamond font.

Most of the supplemental information and handouts for this class will be given to you in digital form. This is to save on paper and do our part to help the environment. If you need any of these as a hard copy please let me know and I will provide them for you. There are some assignments that are better done on paper and those will be handed out in class but a digital copy will be provided so you can print any replacements at home.

Please back up your homework in at least two (2) places and save regularly. "My computer crashed" will not be an excuse for any assignment being turned in late.

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**MATERIAL CONTENT:**

We will have readings this semester that may include offensive language, adult themes, and political/religious views that may not be in line with your personal beliefs. Materials used in this course are used for the purpose of research and learning, were not chosen to offend or be "preachy" and do not necessarily reflect the views of myself or Limestone College. I ask that you keep an open mind when exploring these works of literature.

**POLICIES FOR THEATRE MAJORS:**

All theatre majors are required to attend department meetings which are held approximately once a month. Announcements will be made during the first week of the semester as to the meeting dates.

Theatre Majors are not allowed unexcused absences for theater courses. If unexcused absences do occur majors are required to make up the missed class time in one of the production shops (shop will be chosen by the course instructor). In other words, if you have an unexcused absence on a MWF class you must make up 1 hour in one of the shops.

Any rehearsal or production performance conflicts must be turned in during the audition process (including athletic events and practices). Additional conflicts after auditions will not be tolerated and could result in dismissal from the show, loss of scholarship and/or affect your grade. Emergency conflicts that arise for athletic events, class trips or outside events must be approved by the director of the production and the coach, advisor or professor who is in charge of the other event. If unexpected conflicts do arise, please contact the stage manager and director of the production immediately.