

THFM-2601-001 (3 credit hours)

INTRODUCTION TO COSTUMING

Fall, 2014
Tuesday/Thursday, 8:30-9:45 am
Room OT22

Instructor: Heather M. Meiklejohn
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Office Hours: by appointment

PRE-REQUISITES

Knowledge of hand sewing techniques and the ability to operate a domestic sewing machine.
Rudimentary knowledge/experience with garment construction.
Access to a sewing machine outside of class time.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to:

1. Provide an introduction to the role of the costumer in theatrical productions; and,
2. Develop fundamental skills required as a costumer.

This class explores components of costume design, offering a discourse on design language, colour theory, structure, and decoration as they relate to costumes for theatre. Instruction will include an overview of the steps necessary to take a costume from designer's sketch to completed ensemble ready for the stage. Specifics of the material covered will depend to some extent on the ability of the students. Likely topics will include: use of tools and equipment; hand and machine sewing techniques; fabric identification; basic garment construction; taking measurements and costume fitting, sketch analysis; working with commercial patterns; shopping and budgetary control; and, theatre etiquette. Students will demonstrate their proficiency with hand and machine sewing by completing a number of projects. Guest speakers working within the industry and a visit to a professional wardrobe are a possibility.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The Costume Technician's Handbook by Rosemary Ingham & Liz Covey, 3rd ed. (required)
Basic Sewing for Costume Construction by Rebecca Cunningham, 2nd ed. (required)

SUPPLIES

Basic hand and machine sewing equipment (to be discussed in class)
Fabric & related misc supplies (to be discussed in class)

EVALUATION

Assignment #1: Stitch Portfolio #1 (due Thursday 16, October)	20%
Assignment #2: Stitch Portfolio #2 (due Tuesday 25, November)	45%
Quiz (13 November)	15%
Weekly class projects/exhibition visits/participation	20%
TOTAL	100%

CONVERSION SCALE

For the calculation of the final grade the following conversion table will be used:

A+	90 – 100%	GPA	4.5	C+	65 – 69.9%	GPA	2.5
A	85 – 89.9%	GPA	4.25	C	60 – 64.9%	GPA	2.0
A-	80 – 84.9%	GPA	4.0	D	50 – 59.9%	GPA	1.0
B+	75 – 79.9%	GPA	3.5	F	below 50%	GPA	0
B	70 – 74.9%	GPA	3.0				

Work not submitted will be graded as 0%.

NOTE

Late assignments are **NOT** accepted.

Headphones and food are **NOT** allowed in the Costume Lab.

Please be aware that use of the Costume Lab and equipment outside of class time is at the discretion of the instructor.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE*

***Please note: the following dates are tentative and subject to change.**

The structure of the course is contingent on the ability of the students. Tentatively, weeks 1-4 are spent reviewing/evaluating general knowledge of costuming; the final weeks of the term focus on garment construction and production. Guest speakers working within the industry and a visit to a professional wardrobe are a possibility; dates and times TBA.

The course will comprise two lectures per week. Time will be given to work on projects during class but it is likely that the student will have to complete projects outside of class time.

Use of the lab outside of class time is at the discretion of the instructor and dictated by the needs of other classes using the lab space.

Assignment #1: Stitch Portfolio part #1 (**due Thursday 16, October**)**

Assignment #2: Stitch Portfolio part #2 (**due Thursday 27, November**)**

Quiz (**Thursday 13, November**)

Class projects/exhibit visits/participation (on-going throughout the term)

****Assignments are due at the end of class. Late assignments will not be accepted.**

"THE REAL THING" LECTURE SERIES

The Department of Theatre and Film is presenting a series of six lectures which will be held on Wednesdays during the free period (12:30-13:20) in Theatre 1T15. Please note the dates in your diary **NOW**: Sept 17, Oct 22, Nov 12, Jan 14, Feb 11, Mar 11. This series will feature speakers from a range of areas in the performing arts: technical, performance, design, management, film, directing, playwriting, etc. These speakers will specifically address issues related to "the business of the business."

Attendance for potential Theatre Honours/majors and for Film majors is optional but highly recommended.

2014 ORIENTATION ASSEMBLY

Each year in September we hold an *Orientation Assembly* to introduce our new students to faculty and other students; to provide information about the department, its various activities and those of its

professors; and to provide news about what's coming up. This year our *Orientation Assembly* will be held on **Wednesday, September 10, 2014, 12:30-13:20 in Theatre, 1T15**. **ATTENDANCE IS COMPULSORY** for all Majors and Honours students. Those considering Honours are strongly recommended to attend. All others are welcome and encouraged to attend.

BUILDING SECURITY

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (which houses the Department of Theatre and Film) is open from 8:00 am-5:30 pm weekdays. Students are permitted to be in the building between 8:00 am and 10:00 pm seven days per week (except statutory holidays when the University is closed) **BUT PLEASE NOTE:** outside of regular building hours, it is **MANDATORY** that everyone in the building **EITHER** carry an access card **OR** have a booking confirmation form in their possession (hard copy or electronic). **ALL EVENING STUDENTS in the building for classes MUST have an access card.** If a Security Guard checks and you do not have proper accreditation, **you may be evicted.**

These rules are in place to protect our students and our equipment; please respect them.

ELECTRONIC COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDA

Students must check our website at <http://theatre.uwinnipeg.ca/tbooking.htm> and read the menu items called *Fire Safety Instructions in the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film*, *Access Card/Building Use Policy* **AND** *Room Booking Instructions*. The link to the electronic *Online Room Booking Form* is also found at this location. Please read and note all instructions carefully.

GENERAL NOTES

This course outline should be considered a guideline only. Time constraints and other unforeseen factors may require that some topics be omitted or covered in less detail than indicated.

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential. <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>.

Students who plan to conduct research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, even a family member, must obtain the approval of the UHREB before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities in class as a learning exercise. See <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/research-human-ethics> for submission requirements and deadlines."

All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect.

UWinnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of classmates and the instructor by avoiding the use of scented products while attending lectures. Exposure to perfumes and other scented products (such as lotion) can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities.

Archival records such as videotapes, sound recordings, and photographs may be made or taken during class or lab times. The University uses such materials primarily for archival, promotional, and teaching purposes. Promotional use may include display at open houses or conferences, or use in advertising, publicity, or brochures. In reading and accepting the terms in this course outline, students acknowledge consent for such use by the University. Should a student not wish to convey such consent, s/he should withdraw from this course immediately.

Cellular phones **MUST** be turned off during classes and examinations; texting is **NOT** permitted in class.

Any student attending a test or final examination may be required to present proof of identity; photo identification is preferred.

It is the student's responsibility to retain a photocopy or computer disk copy of **ALL** assignments submitted for grading; in the event of loss or theft, a duplicate copy is required.

Students are strongly advised to read the section of the *University of Winnipeg Calendar* (found on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/cms-filesystem-action/pdfs/calendar/RegulationsandPolicies.pdf>) for information on Registration, Grading, Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2014 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin in September and end in November, 2014 (Fall 2014 Term).

STUDENT PARTICIPATION POLICY

Theatre is a communal art form in which a number of interdependent artists and crafts people co-operate to create a work of art. This fact is necessarily transferred to the learning situation, and is reflected in many of the Department's courses. Consequently, it is the Department's policy that students are required to: complete homework such as reading, line-learning, script analysis, prop lists, design drawings, etc.; attend classes; attend rehearsals both within and outside of class times; and, in short, to exhibit commitment towards the inevitably shared endeavours of our field of study.

Any student failing to fulfil these requirements is harmful to the progress of dedicated students and may, after due warning, be asked to withdraw from any individual Departmental course.

COURSE CONTENT NOTE

All Theatre and Film Classes

Dramatic Literature depicts a wide variety of human action, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. The Department of Theatre and Film will not undertake to censor the subject matter of dramatic works.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of content and style in drama/film are urged to discuss these concerns with the course instructor.

Performance-Related Classes

Much of an actor's work is based upon actual experiences of life which become translated into fictional circumstances. Because of this, the teaching of acting may involve encouraging the student to examine personal and even intimate areas of life to help him or her access life experiences appropriate to the demands of the work.

Dramatic literature depicts a wide range of human actions, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. Acting students must learn to simulate life truthfully in interaction with other students in the safety of the acting class and the rehearsal hall through exercises, discussions, and directions which address rather than avoid truthful, particularized, personalized action.

Performance classes often require strenuous physical activity. Classes may also involve physical interaction between students as part of class exercises or character development and occasional physical contact by instructors for purposes such as the demonstration of a technique or to make a posture correction. Students are responsible for wearing clothing appropriate to these activities.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of actions and subject matter involved in drama are urged to discuss these concerns with their course instructor.