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WACO, TEXAS

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**AND**

**INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**COSTUME TECHNOLOGY**

**DRAM 1342 01**

**KATHLEEN LAUNDY**

**NOTE: This is a 16-week course.  
NOTE: This is an Online course.**

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION FALL, 2023

**Course Description:**

Survey of the costume process from concept to realization; develops basic hand and machine sewing techniques, basic patterning and fitting methods, and costume crafts. Semester Hours 3 (3 lec/3 lab)

## Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

None.

## Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

I am aware that racism deeply impacts all the work I do in theatre; It is my job as a teacher to counter the racism inherent in the theatre industry with anti-racist practices through conscious effort to reduce harm, prevent harm, and repair relationships. I teach this class through an anti-racism lens.

Theatre, historically and currently, deals with complex and controversial issues; it is often challenging and at times uncomfortable. It would therefore be impossible to offer a meaningful introduction to theatre that did not engage, at times, with potentially difficult issues including systemic racism, Antisemitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, misogyny, ableism, and body shaming. Many of us will have different responses to the plays we read and attend, and that is an excellent thing. In our discussions, all thoughtfully and respectfully expressed viewpoints are welcome and encouraged. However, no one may be excused from reading, viewing, or discussing a play based on its content. Students who are concerned about the content of this class or their ability to complete the required work should talk to the instructor before the Census date.

## Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Kathleen Laundy

MCC Email: klaundy@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: 254 299-8191

Office Location: MTA 105F This is where my mailbox is.

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: MTA 114 is the costume shop and where you’ll actually find me most hours of the day. M-F 1:30-5. I am always available by email.

**Required Text & Materials:**

There is no required textbook. Links to free online scripts are provided. PDFs of MCC production scripts are included. This is a Brightspace-supported course. There is no required textbook for you to purchase, the textbook was written by me, for this course, and is already loaded onto Brightspace. Links to free online scripts are provided. PDFs of MCC productions scripts are included. All required materials for this course are provided for the student.

## MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

## Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Overviews of each unit provide the key concepts. Foundational learning consists of lectures, powerpoints, and videos. The lecture section of this course will provide fundamental information in costume analysis, history, and design for the theatre. The lab section of this course is designed to teach the theatre student basic sewing skills through projects and demonstrations, and provide fundamental training in costume production through work on MCC productions. In addition, the student will gain experience in the organization and execution of a wardrobe crew by participating during an actual production.

## Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

Upon completion of the course students will be able to demonstrate the following knowledge, skills, and abilities: Ability to identify and analyze the costume elements in a production. Ability to identify and differentiate between periods of costume history. Knowledge of responsibilities of costume shop personnel. Knowledge of basic equipment and tools used in a costume shop. Ability to accurately take an actor’s measurements. Ability to identify and differentiate between scissors and shears, serger thread and machine thread, hand sewing needles and machine sewing needles, sergers and sewing machines, home and industrial machines. Knowledge of basic home and industrial sewing machine operation: correct methods of threading, winding a bobbin, replacing a needle. Knowledge of basic serger operation. Skills in basic machine sewing: straight stitch, zig zag, basting stitches. Skills in basic seaming: plain, flat fell, French, turning a corner, inside curve, outside curve, Skills in seam finishing: grading, notching, clipping, pressing. Skills in basic hand sewing: cross stitch hem, shirt tail hem, slip stitch hem, closures including buttons, snaps, hooks and eyes. Knowledge of methods of patterning: draping, drafting, and flat patterning. Knowledge of methods of dyeing.

## Course Attendance/Participation Guidelines:

If a student is not in attendance in accordance with the policies/guidelines of the class as outlined in the course syllabus as of the course census date, faculty are required to drop students from their class roster prior to certifying the respective class roster. A student’s financial aid will be re-evaluated accordingly and the student will only receive funding for those courses attended as of the course census date. (Sept. 6, 2023)

As this is a Face to Face class, attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting. By departmental policy, students will be withdrawn by the instructor for exceeding the 10% absence limit, that translates to missing 3 classes. On the 4th absence, you will be withdrawn.

Additionally, this class contains a lab component which is worth 25% of your grade. Students must work a minimum of 48 hours during the course of the semester building costumes for our productions. To receive full credit for this course, you must complete 48 lab hours of work before the last day of class. The best way to do this is to come to lab hours two days per week for 2.5 hours per day. If you end up with 0 lab hours, you will NOT get a 75 in this class, you will fail, even if all your other work is complete and receives full credit. Working lab hours is the only way that you will learn these skills. Any lab hours after 48 will receive extra credit, 1 point per hour.

**Course Outline or Schedule**:

Getting Started—Aug. 22

Working in the Costume Shop lecture / Measurements lab Aug. 24

Threading the Sewing Machine Aug. 29

What is a Costume?— Aug. 31

Machine Stitching—Sept. 5

Elements and Principles of Design—Sept. 7

Seaming—Sept 12

Fibers and Fabrics-- Sept. 14

Cutting/Pressing—Sept. 19

Dyeing-- Sept. 21

Handsewing lecture / Finish *Musical Comedy* costumes lab— Sept. 26

Costume Crafts lecture / Finish *Musical Comedy* costumes lab— Sept. 28

Iconic Character Project lecture / Laundry and strike lab— Oct. 3

Patterning lecture/ Continuing Laundry and strike lab— Oct. 5

Draping Part 1 Oct. 10

Draping Part 2 Oct. 12

Draping Part 3 Oct. 17

Draping Part 4—Oct. 19

Classical Costume History —Oct. 24

Renaissance Costume History-- Oct. 26

Baroque Costume History—Oct. 31

Victorian Costume History—Nov . 2

Twentieth Century Costume History —Nov. 7

Iconic Character Project Due/Costume Design Process—Nov . 9

Finish *Christmas Carol* costumes—Nov. 14

Finish *Christmas Carol* costumes—Nov. 16

Strike/Laundry for Christmas Carol—Nov.21

Thanksgiving Holiday—Nov 22-24

Work on Costume Design Projects in class—Nov. 28

Work on Costume Design Projects in class—Nov. 30

Costume Design Final Project—Dec. 5: **No work accepted after noon on this day**.

## Course Grading Information:

Students will earn grade points by completing the following assignments:

Students will earn grade points by completing the following assignments on the due date:

4 Sewing Projects: 20%

Quizzes: 20%

48 Lab Hours: 25%

Measurements: 5%

Draping Project: 10%

Design Projects: 20%

You may check your grades at any time by clicking on the Assessments button in Brightspace.

**Extra Credit:**

I am a big fan of extra credit. There are five ways to earn extra credit in this course:

1. Go see other plays. Take a selfie with your program in front of the theatre and send it to me.
2. Registering to vote/voting. Send me a photo of your voter registration card or a photo of you wearing your ***I Voted!*** sticker.
3. Go to a march, demonstration, or protest with a sign. Do a 5K fundraiser. Participate in any event that helps the community and take a selfie with some relevant signage and send it to me. I will make you aware of these opportunities throughout the semester as they come up.
4. Completing my faculty evaluation before the end of the course. When you get to the end of the survey, take a screen shot of the "Thank you for completing this evaluation" message and send it to me.

## Late Work and Make Up Work Policies:

Students are expected to keep up with weekly reading, quizzes, and discussion boards. Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will have serious consequences and may result in a failing grade. Course work will not be accepted past the due date. If you know you will have a conflict meeting a deadline please discuss this with the instructor ahead of time.

## Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Expectations for the course: You will need to be active in participating in the weekly discussions and projects to be successful in this course. Communication is vital to a student’s success in this class. To communicate with the instructor students should email the instructor directly at [klaundy@mclennan.edu](mailto:klaundy@mclennan.edu).

Expectations for the costume shop: Every student has the right to a safe and pleasant learning environment. Keep your language and behavior professional in the costume shop. It is both a classroom, a workroom, and a design studio. Additionally, we are open to the community to serve their costume rental needs. If you are in the costume shop, you should be there for a reason, either doing your classwork or working on costumes for the show. The costume shop is not a student lounge or a cafeteria. If you are loitering, you will be asked to leave.

## [Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html" \o "Open in a new window)

**(https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html**)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.