

Las Positas College
3000 Campus Hill Drive
Livermore, CA 94551-7650
(925) 424-1000
(925) 443-0742 (Fax)

Course Outline for THEA 51

INTRODUCTION TO COSTUME DESIGN

Effective: Fall 2015

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

THEA 51 — INTRODUCTION TO COSTUME DESIGN — 3.00 units

Students will study costume history, design, and basic construction techniques as an introduction to basic theatrical costuming. Fabrics and their various uses will be investigated. Design and fabrication of costumes for production; components of basic sewing and costume construction; comprehensive overview of the history of fashion and costume, color, manufacturing techniques; Introduction to basic makeup design; makeup application techniques and design; special effects makeup techniques. Strongly recommended: Theater 50.

2.00 Units Lecture 1.00 Units Lab

Strongly Recommended

THEA 50 - Stagecraft
with a minimum grade of D

Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

Discipline:

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	36.00
Lab Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	90.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

Before entering this course, it is strongly recommended that the student should be able to:

A. THEA50

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- A. Use historical research methods in creating a costume design
- B. Identify costumes from various historical periods
- C. Correctly use standard costume vocabulary in written work and oral presentations
- D. Identify fabrics and materials used in costumes
- E. Analyze a play script to create a design concept
- F. Utilize costume construction methods to execute a costume
- G. Evaluate the effective use of costume in production
- H. Create a design from a design concept
- I. Analyze a design in terms of budget requirements

V. CONTENT:

- A. Costume history
- B. Costume design
 1. Play analysis
 2. Forming a design concept
 3. Design principles
 4. Rendering techniques
 5. Plotting the production
 6. Budgeting
- C. Advanced research techniques
 1. Published sources
 2. Internet
 3. Actual clothing (museums)
- D. Fibers and textiles
 1. Identifying fibers and weaves

2. Period textiles
3. Modification of fabrics

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Classroom Activity** - Working with commercial pattern Construction techniques Fabric analysis Basic sewing techniques
- B. **Guest Lecturers** -
- C. **Projects** - Costume design and creation for main stage and student directed productions.
- D. **Written exercises and case studies** - Portfolio creation of costume designs with extensive supporting research and reference images
- E. **Demonstration** - Basic sewing techniques
- F. **Discussion** -
- G. **Field Trips** - Museums and Exhibits, whenever possible
- H. **Lecture** -

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Complete reading assignments in assigned textbook
- B. Complete reading assignments in additional books on reserve in the LRC in order to complete:
 1. Create drawing assignments.
 2. Research on the play's historic period and setting
 3. Design and create a costume design for a Las Positas theater production of a play.
- C. Research assignments such as historical era, history of fashion, or construction techniques
- D. Develop an individual portfolio project of complete designs and research, to be presented at the end of the course
- E. Attend a local performance in order to aesthetically value the design of the costumes and makeup in live production
- F. Work on costume and makeup design projects for LPC production
- G. Construct a simple garment such as shirts, skirt, capes, and/or pants from a pattern
- H. Demonstrate an understanding of dying technique for various fabrics through completion of an in class dye job
- I. Apply and design special effects makeup such as: animals, wounds, prosthetics, age

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Quizzes
3. Research Projects
4. Portfolios
5. Papers
6. Projects
7. Group Projects
8. Class Participation
9. Class Work

B. **Frequency**

1. Exams/Tests & Quizzes -- 2 quizzes, one midterm and one final
2. Portfolio -- one to present at end of term
3. Oral Presentation -- present portfolio orally at end of term
4. Projects -- minimum 2 per term
5. Costume Design and Construction-- 2-5 per term
6. Class Participation - daily
7. Homework - weekly
8. Lab Activities -weekly

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Cunningham, Rebecca. *The Magic Garment: Principles of Costume Design.*, Waveland Pr Inc, 2009.
2. Cunningham, Rebecca. *Basic Sewing for Costume Construction: A Handbook.* 2nd ed., Waveland Pr Inc, 2011.
3. Davis, Gretchen, and Mindy Hall. *The Makeup Artist Handbook: Techniques for Film, Television, Photography, and Theatre.*, Focal Press, 2012.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: