

## **SYLLABUS – Costume Design (TAPS 1281X)**

Wednesday & Fridays 12:00 - 1:50 pm via Zoom on Canvas

Brown University, Spring 2021

**Instructors:** Ron Cesario & Renée Surprenant Fitzgerald

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**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 10:00am – 12:00pm and by appointment

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

To provide instruction in the basic techniques of theatrical costume design. This will include: figure drawing; how the elements and principles of design relate to and are utilized in costume design; collaboration; script analysis; research methods; costume design process; character analysis; the function and purpose of costumes in theatre and an introduction to costume history. Emphasis of this course will be on the process of how to design, how to think like a designer, and how to communicate as a designer. This course is intended to lay the foundation for further study while empowering students to actively engage as costume designers in productions on campus

### **Goals**

- Demonstrate a basic understanding of costume design principles and process as well as a basic level of proficiency in the execution of the process of costume design.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the idea of collaboration in the theatre arts, and how it specifically relates to costume design.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how the elements and principles of design are used and manipulated to effect in costume design.
- Demonstrate a basic level of skill and proficiency in the techniques of drawing, including figure drawing, and costume sketching.
- Demonstrate a basic level of proficiency in the creation of costume renderings.
- Demonstrate a sufficient understanding of selected periods of costume history to effectively create costume designs.
- Visually articulate design ideas through the clear and concise presentation of research..
- Interpret analysis of text into design ideas using research and visual inspiration.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Synchronous Class Meetings and Zoom:** Classes will take place on Zoom for the entire Spring 2021 semester. To access the Zoom link for class, log in to Canvas, navigate to the “TAPS 1281X: Costume Design” Course, and then click on the “Zoom” link in the menu on the left of your screen. There will be one link to access class, and a second to access private office hours; the “class” link will be active all semester, with no on/off limits or “waiting rooms”. ***Please be aware that all Zoom classes may be recorded and made available to all class members via Canvas for the duration of the semester.*** Any meetings that take place through the “office hours” meeting link are confidential and will NOT be recorded.

***Lectures and other course materials are copyrighted. Students are prohibited from reproducing, making copies, publicly displaying, selling, or otherwise distributing the recordings or transcripts of the materials.*** The only exception is that students with disabilities may have the right to record for their private use if that method is determined to be a reasonable accommodation by Student Accessibility Services. Disregard of the University's copyright policy and federal copyright law is a Student Code of Conduct violation.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to attend every synchronous class meeting via Zoom; but, if you do miss a class, you should watch the recording of the class lecture as soon as possible, so you don't fall behind or miss any important information. If you do not attend the synchronous class OR watch the recording asynchronously, your Attendance & Participation grade will be affected.

**Canvas and Course Communication:** Canvas will be used as the primary mode of communication for the entire course. In addition to hosting our Zoom class meetings, we will use Canvas weekly Modules to distribute all reading materials and other resources, and to guide you through the out-of-class Assignments. All communication from instructors to students will come from Canvas Announcements and Canvas Inbox; please adjust your Canvas settings so these communications are also sent to your Brown.edu email inbox, so you can be sure you don't miss anything.

Students may choose to contact instructors via Canvas Inbox, or through our Brown.edu emails listed above.

## **Use of Technology to Support Your Learning in This**

**Course:** We are committed to ensuring access to online course resources by students. If you have any concerns or questions about access or the privacy of any of these platforms, please reach out to me. The IT Service Center (<https://it.brown.edu/get-help>[Links to an external site.](#)) provides many IT Services including remote assistance, phones, tickets, and chat. Please also see the [Online and Hybrid Learning Student Guide](#)[Links to an external site.](#).

**Assignments:** Students can expect to be assigned work to do between each class session; this can include reading, watching videos and tutorials, taking quizzes, completing art and design exercises, and completing design projects that are started in class.

All coursework will be submitted and graded through Canvas Assignments. Some assignments can be done entirely using your computer, and you'll be able to submit your work in Canvas Assignments via the in-browser text box, or by uploading a PDF or web link to your work. If an assignment involves a hand-crafted piece of work, please take a picture of the piece to upload. The larger design projects that have in-class presentations and critiques will be done via the screen-share function on Zoom, but uploading photos or a PDF of your project through the Assignments function is also necessary.

All assignments listed on the syllabus calendar are due at the start of class; if an assignment is not completed by the start of class on the day it is due, the grade for that component will be reduced by 10% (Maximum grade of B). If the assignment is turned in more than a week late, the grade will be reduced by 30% (Maximum grade is passing with a C).

**Grading:** This course is designed to foster personal growth, and place value and emphasis on your creative process. Therefore, each project will be graded based on the level of completeness, apparent effort, and artistic growth demonstrated by the individual student. A complete novice may receive the same grade as an experienced professional if the project requirements are met on time, and the student can thoroughly explain and defend their artistic choices.

**The graded components of this course are:**

**In-Class Participation and Attendance: 10%**

**General Costume Assignments: 13%**

Literary Character design  
Decade Research Project  
Folk Tale Concept Statement  
Collaboration Project

**“A Midsummer Night’s Design Unit: 35%**

Quiz  
Dramaturgical Questions  
Mood Board/Concept/Wardrobe Plot  
Research Packet  
Rough sketches  
Final Designs- Mechanicals  
Final Designs- Lovers  
Final Designs- Fairies

**Play 2 Design Unit: 19%**

Quiz  
Dramaturgical Questions  
Mood Board/Concept/Wardrobe Plot  
Thumbnail sketches  
Final Designs

**“Intimate Apparel” Unit: 22%**

Dramaturgical Questions  
Mood Board/Concept/Wardrobe Plot  
Thumbnail Sketches  
Final Designs

**Total: 100%**

**Accessibility and Accommodations Statement:** Brown University is committed to full inclusion of all students. Please inform me early in the term if you may require accommodations or modification of any of course procedures. You may speak with me after class, during office hours, or by appointment. If you need accommodations around online learning or in classroom accommodations, please be sure to reach out to [Student Accessibility Services \(SAS\) Links to an external site.](#) for their assistance (seas@brown.edu, 401-863-9588). Students in need of short-term academic advice or support can [contact one of the academic deans in the CollegeLinks to an external site.](#).

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

**Personal Computer and Internet access will be required for this course.**

All programs and software we use in class will be free for Brown/RISD students to access.

**The following art, craft, and design materials will also be required for this course:**

*\*(Bookstore Link to come)\**

## **BCMS Aid for Books, Supplies, and Materials:**

If your Brown undergraduate financial aid package includes the Book/Course Material Support Pilot Program (BCMS), concerns or questions about the cost of books and course materials for this or any other Brown course (including RISD courses via cross-registration) can be addressed to bcms@brown.edu. For all other concerns related to non-tuition course-related expenses, whether or not your Brown undergraduate financial aid package includes BCMS, please visit the Academic Emergency Fund in E-GAP (within the umbrella of "E-Gap Funds" in [UFundsLinks to an external site.](#)) to determine options for financing these costs, while ensuring your privacy.

## **Calendar- Spring 2021:**

1/20

Intros/go over canvas/syllabus/bookstore info

Assignment: Watch Costume Designer videos, prepare questions for discussion, Due: 1/22

1/22

Due: questions about videos

Assignment: Literary Character Design Project, Due: 1/27

1/27

Due: Literary Character Design Project

Discussion: Research methods/mood boards/collages/conceptualization

Present: Literary characters?

Assignment: Decade Research Project, Due: 2/3

Assignment: Read "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

Take quiz/prepare director questions, Due: 1/29

1/29

Due: Play reading, quiz, director questions

Discussion: Script analysis/ Midsummer questions

Assignment: Midsummer concept/mood board/  
wardrobe plot, Due: 2/3

2/3

Due: Decade research project

Due: Midsummer concept/mood board/wardrobe plot

Discussion: Elements and Principles of Design

Present: Midsummer mood boards/concepts

Assignment: Research for Midsummer 6 lovers based on  
decade research, Due: 2/10

Assignment: 2 rough sketch ideas for each of 6  
Mechanicals, Due: 2/5

2/5

Due: Mechanical rough sketches

Discussion: Rendering/Figure drawing

Guest: Eric Franzen

Assignment: Continued work on Mechanicals/finished  
designs, Due: 2/12

2/10

Due: Midsummer Lovers research

、 Discussion: Figure drawing cont./character development

Guest: Eric Franzen

Assignment: Design 6 Lover, 2 costumes each, Due: 2/12

2/12

Due: Costume designs for Mechanicals/Lovers

Present: 12 Designs for Mechanicals/ 12 for Lovers

Assignment: History reading?, Due: 2/17

2/17

Present: Designs cont.

Discussion: Costume/theater history

Assignment: Design Fairies, Due: 2/24(assign styles to students)

2/19

Discussion: Costume/theater history cont.

2/24

Present: Fairy designs

2/26

Discussion: Period styles

Assignment: Collaboration reading, Due: 3/3

3/3

Due: Reading

Discussion: Designer collaboration

Assignment: Concept statement for folk tale designs

3/5



Due: Concept statement for folk tales

Discussion: Designer collaboration

Collaboration exercise

Assignment: choose student pairs

Assignment: Trade folk design concepts to design/work  
in pairs, Due: 3/12

Assignment: Watch Fran Romasco video

3/10

Discussion: Costume shops and how they run

Guest: Fran Romasco

3/12

Present: Folk tale designs presented in pairs

Assignment: Read play 2/quiz/director questions

3/17

Due: Script questions

Present: Folk tale designs cont.

Discussion: Color theory/play 2

Assignment: Play 2 research/wardrobe plot/mood board,  
Due: 3/19

3/19

Present: Play 2 research/mood boards

Assignment: Play 2 thumbnail sketches, Due: 3/24

Play 2 finished costume designs, Due: 3/26

3/24

In class work on Play 2 designs

3/26

Present: Play 2 designs

3/31

Present: Play 2 designs cont.

Assignment: Read Play 3/questions, Due: 4/2

4/2

Due: Play 3 script questions

Discussion: Play 3

Guest: Jane Stein

Assignment: Play 3 wardrobe plot/mood board/design

Concept, Due: 4/7

4/7

Due: Play 3 wardrobe plot/mood board/design concept

Discussion: In class meet/work with students

Guest: Jane Stein

Assignment: Play 3 Research/thumbnaill sketches,

Due: 4/9

Assignment: Final designs for Play 3, Due: 4/16

4/9

No Class

4/14

Discussion: In class work with students

4/16

Present: Play 3 final designs

4/19 2:00? Exam week: Play 3 final designs cont.