

# **Costume Design for the Stage**

THEA 354 Fall 2019

Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 am - 12:15 pm

McLaurin Hall 101/Zoom

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Office Hour: Wed 12-1 p.m. and by appointment

## **Course description**

This course explores the concepts and processes of designing costumes for narrative forms theatre. It covers topics such as Playscript analysis, organizing and compiling conceptual research, creating relevant paperwork, and developing visual communication tools. This course prepares students with the skills necessary to take a script from first reading through the early stages of design realization. This is not a sewing course.

## **Course goals and objectives**

Communication is at the heart of good design, and along with creative exploration, and collaboration this course focuses on developing those communication skills: written, verbal, and visual.

## **Course Format**

This course is presented around a series of assignments designed to challenge and develop the student's creativity and work ethic, culminating in a design project based on an existing script or libretto. Though good design is in large part subjective, assignments will be graded on their carefulness, thoughtfulness, and clearly organized presentation. An important part of any design class is constructive criticism, students are expected to participate in these critiques; input from both the professor and the student's peers are given in good faith and are not to be perceived as criticism of the student as a person. The majority of classes will meet on Zoom, Events on the Class schedule marked in red will require students to meet on campus following safety protocols.

## **Class Materials and Supplies**

Recommended Texts (not Required): *The Magic Garment* by Rebecca Cunningham  
*From Page to Stage* by Rosemary Ingham

Pencils for note taking and for Drawing

1-1/2" binder

Binder dividers

Vellum or tracing paper

Watercolor paints

Watercolor brush (or brushes)

Glue Stick

Other art supplies may be useful in the class such as gouache, markers, art pens, exacto knives, etc.

**You should have access to:**

- A reliable high-speed internet connection and up-to-date web browser
- The ability to view picture and other image files
- The ability to view video through sites like YouTube
- Word Processing and Spreadsheet software or online equivalent
- A printer
- A scanner and/or photocopier
- It is helpful but not necessary to have basic digital photo editing skills

### **Attendance Policy**

Class attendance is a student's obligation. The University of Louisiana Lafayette expects all students to regularly and punctually attend all classes in which they are enrolled. All sessions on Zoom should be attended in a sitting position with appropriate clothing, meeting remotely is common for professional costume designers and you should act professionally as well. For every 1 unexcused absence, or 2 cases of tardiness the student's grade will be dropped by one letter grade. However, the world is in a health crisis and things are subject to change, please see the extensive COVID-19 section below.

### **Moodle**

This course will use the Moodle system to post class documents, assignments, grades, as well as to disseminate any amendments to the course schedule or policies. As all material posted in this manner will become the responsibility of ALL who participate in this course, the ability to log onto Moodle and receive email at your University email account is a course requirement for all students. Any questions or concerns regarding this undertaking should be directed to the UCS Help Desk: ([helpdesk@louisiana.edu](mailto:helpdesk@louisiana.edu), 482-5515). Syllabus, projects and grades will be posted on Moodle.

### **Cell Phones**

**Cellphones are not permitted during class.** Phones should be turned OFF when you enter the classroom. Students using a cell phone during class for calls or texting will be asked to leave class, and will receive a mark of absent for that day's class meeting. \*There are special cases in which you may use your cellphone as a camera or a calculator, you will be given express permission when those cases arise.

### **Disabilities**

The Office of Disability Services (ODS) at UL Lafayette is dedicated to ensuring nondiscrimination and equal access to all programs, services, and activities for qualified students with disabilities. Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) to verify the disability and to establish eligibility for accommodations. Students may call 337-482-5252 or visit the ODS office in Agnes Edwards Hall (Conference Center), room 126. Once registered, students should then schedule an appointment with the professor to make appropriate arrangements.

*There is free confidential help on campus for students experiencing psychological and emotional issues like Bipolar disorder, Depression, Anxiety, etc. Please feel free to reach out to me for more info.*

## **Dealing with Academic Honesty**

In submitting assignments and projects for courses, students take responsibility for their work, and imply that, except as properly noted, the ideas, words, material and craftsmanship are their own. In written work, if students cite from a source of information or opinion other than themselves without giving credit, either within the body of their texts or in properly noted references and without using quotation marks where needed, or otherwise fail to acknowledge the borrowings, they have in fact presented the work, words or ideas of others as if they were their own. Failure to abide by those simple principles of responsible scholarship is dishonest, as is receiving or giving aid on tests, examinations or other assigned work presumed to be independent or original. A student whose work is found to be dishonestly accomplished and submitted as his or her own for credit will be removed from the course with a grade of "F."

## **Policy for dealing with late submissions**

Every class period a project is late equals a letter grade deduction. If you must turn in a project late due to external circumstances such as a family emergency, sickness, etc. I should be emailed prior to the start of class when the project is due.

## **Title IX Statement**

Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against, or involved in sexual violence should contact the University's Title IX Coordinator (337-482-1819) or visit <http://titleix.louisiana.edu> for information about campus resources and confidential support services, including confidential counseling services.

## **Etiquette**

By its very nature, the field of Costume Design and Technology works intimately with and is dependent on the human form. At times it is necessary to analyze, critique, discuss, photograph, and touch the bodies of those we costume. This must be done with calculated respect. Honesty and sensitivity is of the utmost importance, and all things discussed, noted, and photographed in the fitting room should be kept private and only shared with the following people: The costume designers and their associates and assistants, the costume shop manager (and their assistant if necessary), the Cutter/Draper working with that performer, and in certain specific circumstances, the Director of the show. The people aforementioned will distribute specific information on a need to know basis. There is a chance in this class that you may need to look at the human form in different stages of undress, this could include images and live models. If you are uncomfortable at any point please email me to schedule a time when we can talk about your concerns.

**Student Code of Conduct: COVID-19:** The University aims to fulfill its mission while protecting the health and safety of our students and campus community at large. This includes taking steps to minimize the potential spread of COVID-19. The University will adhere to the orders, proclamations, and regulations of the Governor of Louisiana and the Mayor-President of Lafayette, Louisiana, as well as guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") and the Louisiana Department of Health ("LDH") regarding COVID-19. This impacts the expectations of all students as the University continues to make public health-informed decisions to protect health and safety on campus. Students should read and understand the addendum to the Code of Student Conduct regarding COVID-19 and Public Health-Informed Policies, and any updates thereto.

**COVID-19 Mask Policy for Academic Areas:** To assist in decreasing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, it is the University's policy that all students, faculty, and staff are required to wear masks or face coverings which completely cover the nose and mouth areas while inside any academic building including classrooms, labs, studios, offices, hallways, and stairways. Failure to wear a mask is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and such violation will be forwarded to the Dean of Students for action.

Students who have concerns about wearing masks due to a disability or medical condition may discuss a modification to the University's mask policy with the Office of Disability Services. In order to discuss a modification for the Fall 2020 semester, students must first register with Disability Services. All registrants will be contacted to arrange a virtual meeting for further discussion. Learn more about Disability Services and accommodations on the Student COVID-19 Response page. Email questions to [ods@louisiana.edu](mailto:ods@louisiana.edu).

**COVID-19 Attendance:** If you are experiencing any signs or symptoms associated with COVID-19 (refer to the most recent [Centers for Disease Control](#) [CDC] guidance on possible symptoms), do not come to class or to campus. First, contact Student Health Services (337-482-1293) or your medical provider, then contact your instructors to inform them of your situation and discuss possible arrangements and ways to keep up with the courses. If you do not feel well for any reason and are staying home, including for symptoms of COVID-19, fill out the [Anticipated or Unplanned Absence Form](#).

If you are required to self-isolate or self-quarantine because of COVID-19, do not come to class or to campus. All students who are required to self-isolate or self-quarantine because of COVID-19 must complete the [Dean of Students' Absence Reporting Form](#) (they do not need to complete the Anticipated or Unplanned Absence form) and email their instructors for support and resources.

Do not wait until you are behind to reach out to your instructors. Options will vary depending on when during the term you are unable to participate, how much class time and coursework is missed, and the nature of the course. Options may include, but not be limited to, transitioning to learning and testing remotely during your absence; in extreme cases, withdrawing from the course, or receiving a grade of incomplete. Contact your instructor and academic advisor with any questions.

For requests to move from on-campus to remote learning for reasons related to COVID-19, a student initiates a written request to the faculty member. The faculty member considers the student's request, learning objectives of the course, and educational technology available to determine if an arrangement for remote instruction is feasible. If an agreement is not possible then the student may bring the request to the department head of the course for a resolution, then to the academic chain of approval.

Learn more on the Student COVID-19 Response page on the University's website. If you have any questions or concerns, email [deanofstudents@louisiana.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@louisiana.edu).

## **Grading**

Each assignment will be graded on the student's ability to follow directions, turn in work on time, be organized and thorough, and show dedication and progress. Both the process and the end product will be taken into account. Creativity and communication skills are equally important.

Historical Research Project	20%
Out of the Closet Projects	20%
Death and the King's Horseman	30%
Costume Critique	10%
Homework	10%
Discussion Questions	10%

### **Extra Credit**

From time to time Extra Credit opportunities will arise. There are a total of 3 Extra credit points that can be added on to your final grade. Do not count on these for making up poor grades in other areas.

### **Discussion Questions**

You will be graded on how you engage with your fellow students and the course material. After any Reading or viewing assignment you will be required to submit on Moodle three discussion questions. These must be completed before the start of class and will be used to guide the discussion of that day, no late work will be accepted for these questions.

### **Course Work**

*The instructor reserves the right to change or modify assignments and due dates as needed.*

#### **Historical Research Project**

Format: Organized Research Folio (Digital File) and in class Presentation

In this project the student will be given a time period to research. Be sure to explore any historic, technical, and literary influences that affected how people dressed. This project is not intended to be exhaustive, but a general overview of the major fashion within your specific time period. The student will submit a digital folder with well labeled images, articles, documents, and an annotated bibliography (with no less than ten sources). The culmination of this project is a 15 minute in class presentation of your findings. Thoughts should be well organized and presented with a clear introduction and conclusion.

#### **Out of the Closet Projects**

This is a series of projects designed to help you think creatively about costuming from a “stock” of costumes (in this case your own wardrobe and household items). Each project will be posted on moodle and will in in a photo or series of photos that you will defend in class.

#### **Death and the King's Horseman**

Format: A show Google Drive folder with required documents and images along with presentation materials.

The student will design costumes for *Death and the King's Horseman* by Wole Soyinka. All costumes will be researched and sketched for 8 Characters, these must include, Elesin, Iyaloja, Simon, Jane, Bride, and H.R.H. the Prince; you may choose the last two Characters. You will pick 8 sketches and turn them into full watercolor renderings. All Characters, including incidental groups, will be tracked in the costume plot. The design will be organized in to a Google Drive and contain the following:

An analysis of the play and its themes	<b>15pts.</b>
World of the Play Collage	<b>5 pts.</b>
Visual research organized by character	<b>30pts.</b>
Costume plot	<b>20 pts.</b>
Sketches and 8 Final Renderings	<b>30 pts.</b>

### **Costume Critique**

Format: Traditional Essay, 3-4 pages double spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman font

Write a 3-4 page critique of a recorded play, musical, opera, or film of your choosing focusing on the costume design. Be sure to mention relevant designers, directors, actors and other creatives only as is necessary for the topics you are referring to. Likewise, do not recap the plot, only mention plot elements if relevant to a specific point you are making. This paper focuses on how costume design was integrated into the show as a whole. In other words, did the costume designs work well with other design elements and serve the action and themes? I want to hear your honest opinion, shared respectfully, well supported and adequately researched. Cite any works that are used, I am not picky about your citation style as long as it is clear. Must be submitted as a **PDF** on moodle.

### **Homework**

Various assignments are given throughout the semester to reinforce lectures and give the student Practical experience. These are listed in the class schedule and details are found on Moodle.

Week #	Date	Lecture	Due	Homework
1	Tue., Aug. 18	Introduction to costume design		Watch Video Assignment
	Thu., Aug. 20	The elements and Principles of design	3 Discussion questions	Principles of Design Collage
2	Tue., Aug. 25	Principles of design Presentations	<b>Present Collage</b>	Watch Videos
	Thu., Aug. 27	Costume Careers Guest Lecturer: Andja Budinchich	3 Discussion questions	Watch Video Assignment
3	Tue., Sep. 1	Historical Analysis	<b>Historical Presentations A</b> 3 Discussion Questions	
	Thu., Sep. 3	Historical Analysis Guest: Paige Meyers	<b>Analysis Worksheet due</b>	Watch Video
4	Tue., Sep. 8	Introduction to Fabric	<b>Historical Presentations B</b> 3 Discussion Questions	Fabric Hunt Quarantine Portrait
	Thu., Sep. 10	Fabric Hunt Presentations Present Quarantine Portrait	<b>Fabric Hunt Presentations</b> <b>Quarantine Portrait</b>	find drawing references
5	Tue., Sep. 15	<b>Costume Graphics:</b> <b>In person Group 1</b>	Have Drawing Materials and references	
	Thu., Sep. 17	<b>Costume Graphics:</b> <b>In person Group 2</b>	Have Drawing Materials and references	Finish drawing
6	Tue., Sep. 22	Drawing Critique	<b>Turn in drawing (PDF)</b> <b>Historical Presentations C</b>	Read <i>Death and the King's Horseman</i>
	Thu., Sep. 24	Intro to Show Design Script analysis		World of the Play Collage
7	Tue., Sep. 29	World of the Play Collage Critique Show Paperwork	<b>World of the Play Collage</b>	Research Alejo Vietti
	Thu., Oct. 1	Guest Lecturer: Alejo Vieti Character research		Watch Video Assignment
8	Tue., Oct. 6	<b>Watercolor</b> <b>In person Demo Group 1</b>	Bring Art Supplies 3 Discussion questions	
	Thu., Oct. 8	<b>Watercolor</b> <b>In person Demo Group 2</b>	Bring Art Supplies	
9	Tue., Oct. 13	Present Character Research		Costume Plot
	Thu., Oct. 15	Present Character Research	<b>Costume Plot</b>	Research Patrick Holt
10	Tue., Oct. 20	Guest Lecturer: Patrick Holt Present Watercolors	<b>Watercolors Due</b>	Shoe Wedding
	Thu., Oct. 22	Present Shoe Wedding Accessories and Detail Lecture	<b>Shoe Wedding</b>	Rough Sketches
11	Tue., Oct. 27	Present Rough Sketches	<b>Rough Sketches</b>	...Horseman Analysis
	Thu., Oct. 29	Present Rough Sketches	<b>...Horseman Analysis</b>	Costume Critique
12	Tue., Nov. 3	Designing the Fantastic <b>Individual Meetings</b>	<b>Critique Due</b>	Closet Bounding
	Thu., Nov. 5	Digital Rendering Present Closet-Bounding <b>Individual Meetings</b>	<b>Closet-Bounding</b>	
13	Tue., Nov. 10	Work Day		
	Thu., Nov. 12	Presentation	<b>Death and the King's Horseman Due</b>	
14	Tue., Nov. 17	Presentation		
	Thu., Nov. 19	Presentation		