

FLPA 254: Beginning Costume Construction Syllabus

SUMMER EDITION!

Title: Beginning Costume Construction

University of Alaska Fairbanks, Theatre & Film Department

Course: FLPA 254 F61 CRN: 51816, 3 Credit hours

Location: Costume Shop - 107 FAC

Date: May 20th to June 28th

Time: M T W Th 2–3:50pm

Amanda Casterline, Adjunct Instructor

Email: acasterl@alaska.edu

Office Phone: 474-6590

Office: FLPA 302

Office Hours: M T W Th 1-2pm or by appointment

The best option to contact the instructor is to MAKE AN APPOINTMENT VIA EMAIL.

Course Description

This special summer edition of costume construction will introduce students to the basic methods of construction used by professional shops and costume houses through creating a personalized costume of your choice (Pirate, cosplay, original design). Projects will cover hand and machine sewing, cutting, fabric identification and basic patterning. Class also includes lectures on shop organization and job positions in the industry.

Course Readings/ Materials

Readings provided as necessary by the instructor

Supplies:

- 1 yard of muslin or plain cotton fabric in unobtrusive color
- Small binder, slipcover or folder equipped to hold 3-hole punched paper. Doesn't have to be new
- Supplies for your costume which will be determined in class within the first week, but will include approximately:
 - 1-2 yards of fabric for pants/skirt plus elastic for waist/hems and desired trims
 - 1-2 yards of bodice or vest fashion fabric, plus lining or flat lining fabric, buttons or grommets, bias tape, trims and lacing.
 - 2-3 yards of shirt/blouse fabric plus elastic and/or buttons for finishing
 - Sash or bandana fabric as desired, or hat blank/used hat to make your pirate hat
 - Accessories of your choosing to complete your look (Not required for class)

These supplies will vary in cost depending on your design and shopping decisions. Expect to spend at least \$40.

Optional Supplies:

- A good pair of sewing scissors
- Colored marking pencils

- A clear, 2"x18" ruler
- A tape measure
- Pins, hand sewing needles or other sewing supplies

Course Goals & Student Learning Outcomes

- Students can identify and execute common hand sewing stitches, and know the proper situation in which to use them.
- Students are able to thread and operate a sewing machine with accuracy, following straight lines and curves, and starting and stopping at exact points.
- Students can interpret pattern markings and instructions to properly cut out a garment.
- Students are familiar basic construction methods, including pinning, stitching and pressing.
- Students can envision the construction of a basic garment from the pattern pieces through observing the pattern markings and garment illustrations.
- Learn a selection of common stitching techniques by completing samplers, which can be referenced in the future when the skills are required.
- Name the parts of a sewing machine and identify them on different makes and models.
- Be able to rethread a sewing machine with speed and accuracy, including filling an empty bobbin.
- Diagnose simple problems that may be preventing the sewing machine from functioning.
- Take measurements of another person and apply them to the following: identifying whether an existing pattern will fit, measuring an existing pattern, making changes to an existing pattern
- Visually identify common fabric weaves and fiber contents.

Instructional Methods

This course is taught as a combination of lecture and studio workshop time in the following areas:

Costume Design – 40 points

With instructor assistance, students will design a 3-piece costume (shirt or blouse, vest or bodice, pants or skirt) with accessories and create a detailed supply shopping list for their costume. This project includes a lecture about fabric types and fiber content.

Sewing Samplers – 60 points

While acquiring their supplies, students will complete samples of common hand and machine sewing techniques, hardware and closures that they will need to complete their costume. Samples should be firmly stapled to the appropriate worksheet and submitted in a binder or folder.

Costume Construction – 210 points (Top 70 points, Bottom 50 points, Vest/Bodice 90 points)

Students will take accurate measurements in class and select patterns based on their size and design. They will construct three complete clothing pieces from the list below.

- Pants - Styles include knee breeches, full breeches, slops or leggings, trousers
- Skirt - various styles with and without petticoats
- Shirt - with or without collar and ruffled front, Button up, pull over, or zipper
- Blouse - with short or long sleeves
- Vest - long waistcoat, short waistcoat, cropped/middle eastern
- Bodice - buttoned or laced with variations

Accessory Project – 40 points

Depending on design, students will make or adapt existing items into several small accessories including sashes, belts, hats, bandanas, eye patches, shoe buckles, earrings, etc. Students are required to create TWO accessories, but may choose to make more.

Final Exam – 50 points

The written Final Exam will test terminology and practical skills learned throughout the semester.

Tentative Course Calendar

1. Week One
 - a. Design Project
 - b. Sewing Samplers
2. Week Two
 - a. Select and alter blouse/shirt pattern and make.
3. Week Three
 - a. Finish Shirt/Blouse
 - b. Begin Pants/Skirt pattern and cut.
4. Week Four
 - a. Finish Shirt/Blouse
 - b. Begin Bodice/Vest pattern.
5. Week Five/Six
 - a. Finish Bodice/Vest
 - b. Accessory making
 - c. Final exam review

Course Policies

Attendance

Attendance is required EVERY DAY. This is a hands-on class and you need to participate to learn. I know everyone has an occasional “brain lapse,” so students will be granted **one** excused absence. Any further absences will count against your final grade (see grading below). “Life events” such as weddings may be excused if consent is obtained prior to the event and an effort is made to promptly reschedule and make up missed work.

If you become ill or have a personal or family emergency, such as a funeral, please contact me prior to the start of class and bring a doctor’s slip, obituary or note. If you have doubts about whether something is considered excusable, please talk to me sooner rather than later. Excusing students from class for any reason will remain up to the discretion of the instructor.

Cheating=Bad. Learning=Good.

It is difficult to cheat in this course, as most of the work will be completed in the presence of the instructor. However, as they say, where there’s a will, there’s a way. So, if I catch you cheating, or your work doesn’t look like yours, you’ll lose all the points for the assignment. A second offense will result in failure of the course.

Also, please treat your instructor, the shop manager, the equipment and your fellow students with respect. Hurtful, racist or derogatory comments, excessive use of inappropriate language, physical violence and improper use or vandalism of university equipment will not be tolerated. Please see the instructor if any of your classmates are making you uncomfortable so we can address the issue promptly. (Please refer to the UAF Catalog Academics and Regulations under *Student Code of Conduct* for more information on the University's policies regarding student behavior. I am very serious about this.)

Blackboard/Email

All information included on this syllabus, detailed assignment instructions and up-to-date grades will be available on Blackboard within the first few weeks of the semester. If you do not regularly check your university affiliated email address, please set up forwards for you receive messages regarding this course in a timely fashion.

Grading/Evaluation

	Points	% of total grade
Sewing Samplers	60	15%
Design & Shopping List	40	10%
Shirt or Blouse	70	18%
Pants or Skirt	50	12%
Vest or Bodice	90	23%
Accessories	40	10%
Final Exam	50	12%
Total	400	100%

97-100%: A+	87-89%: B+	77-79%: C+	65-69%: D+	Below 58%: F
93-96%: A	83-86%: B	73-76%: C	60-64%: D	
90-92%: A-	80-82%: B-	70-72%: C-	58-59%: D-	

Attendance is mandatory. Rather than earning points for being in class, you will lose points from your final total grade if you miss. For each unexcused day you miss you will automatically lose points regardless of whether you make up the work. The first day you miss will cost you 10 points, the next day will cost you 15 points, and each day after that will cost you 20 more. 20 points is 5% of your final grade!

Late assignments will be downgraded **5% each day** and will not be accepted beyond one week after due date unless ok-ed by instructor. Students will be granted a 48 hour grace period on first late assignment only.

Important selections from the UAF Student Code of Conduct:

“UAF requires students to conduct themselves honestly and responsibly, and to respect the rights of others. Conduct that unreasonably interferes with the learning environment or that violates the

rights of others is prohibited.... Honesty is a primary responsibility of you and every other UAF student. The following are common guidelines regarding academic integrity:

- Students will not collaborate on any quizzes, in-class exams, or take-home exams that will contribute to their grade in a course, unless permission is granted by the instructor of the course. Only those materials permitted by the instructor may be used to assist in quizzes and examinations.
- Students will not represent the work of others as their own. A student will attribute the source of information not original with himself or herself (direct quotes or paraphrases) in compositions, theses and other reports.
- No work submitted for one course may be submitted for credit in another course without the explicit approval of both instructors.”

If you cheat or plagiarize in this class, you will FAIL the assignment and possibly the entire class.

Student Protections and Services Statement:

Every qualified student is welcome in my classroom. As needed, I am happy to work with you, disabilities services, veteran’s services, rural student services, etc to find reasonable accommodations. Students at this university are protected against sexual harassment and discrimination (Title IX), and minors have additional protections. As required, if I notice or am informed of certain types of misconduct, then I am required to report it to the appropriate authorities. For more information on your rights as a student and the resources available to you to resolve problems, please go to the following site: www.uaf.edu/handbook/

Support Services:

- Disability Services: <http://www.uaf.edu/disability/>
- Student Support Services <https://uaf.edu/sssf/>
- Rural Student Services <https://uaf.edu/ruralss/>
- Military and Veteran Services: <https://uaf.edu/veterans/>
- UAF Writing Center <http://www.uaf.edu/english/writing-center/>

Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity

University of Alaska Board of Regents have clearly stated in BOR Policy that discrimination, harassment and violence will not be tolerated on any campus of the University of Alaska. If you believe you are experiencing discrimination or any form of harassment including sexual harassment/misconduct/assault, you are encouraged to report that behavior. If you disclose sexual harassment or sexual violence to a faculty member or any university employee, they must notify the UAF Title IX Coordinator about the basic facts of the incident. Your choices for disclosure include:

- 1) You may confidentially disclose and access confidential counseling by contacting the UAF Health & Counseling Center at 474-7043.
- 2) You may access support and file a Title IX report by contacting the UAF Title IX Coordinator at 474-7599.
- 3) You may file a criminal complaint by contacting the University Police Department at 474-7721.