



THE 497: Sewing Fundamentals
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2015
MWF 10-10:50
PERFORMING ARTS #116 (Costume Shop)

Instructor: Casey Watkins, MFA, Assistant Professor of Theatre
Office Location: Performing Arts Center #104
Office Hours: M/W 2-3pm T/H 11am-1pm. or by appointment
Office Phone: 903-886-5339
University Email Address: Casey.Watkins@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Materials:

Fabric (To be used when specified by instructor)
Sewing Kit (to be provided by instructor)

Required Viewing

Acting: The First Six Lessons
By Beau and Emily Bridges
Director: Kelsey Cooper
Run: October 11 – 16
Venue: Studio Theatre

The Dispute
By Pierre Carlet de Marivaux, Translation by Gideon Lester
Director: Carrie Klypchak
Run: November 15 – 20
Venue: Main Stage

Tickets are available for a nominal fee from the University Playhouse Box Office (PAC 101) from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on weekdays. Or, you may make advance reservations by phone at any time by calling 903-886-5900 or by email at playhouseboxoffice@tamuc.edu.

Course Description:

An introduction to both hand and machine sewing skills. Students will be taught skills in sewing with specific reference to theatrical costuming practices.

Course Ethics and Attendance: *Note that attendance alone does not constitute participation.* Promptness, attendance, and “attentiveness” are valued in this class. PARTICIPATION IS NECESSARY. Please behave accordingly and do not disrupt the class with excessive talk or the use of cell phones or other devices. It is assumed that students will work cooperatively with one another. See the TAMUC *Student’s Guide Handbook* for more information on plagiarism. This is a serious offense that can result in separation from the university. **EVEN if not specifically noted on instructions or prompts for each assignment, plagiarism policies will be strictly enforced.**

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- 1-Gain an understanding of the process of taking garments from page to stage.
- 2-Learn both hand and machine construction methods suitable for costume construction.
- 3-Become familiar with the tools and materials within the costume studio.
- 4-Be able to read a commercial pattern and basic patterning knowledge.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:

COURSE EVALUATION: The course evaluation will be determined by the student’s performance on tests, assignments and participation

GRADING SCALE:

900-1000	=	A
800-899	=	B
700-799	=	C
600-699	=	D
500-599	=	F

The points available break down as follows:

Scavenger Hunt worksheet	50 pts
Ruler Worksheet	50 pts
Pattern worksheet	50 pts
Machine parts worksheet	50 pts
Hand Sewing Sampler	150 pts
Machine Sewing Sampler	150 pts
Pajama Pants	200 pts
Lab Hours	150 pts* must pass
Attendance and Participation	150 pts

For a total of 1000 points**Sewing Samplers:**

-You will be required to complete both a hand sewing and machine sewing sampler this semester. Each of the stitches you will be required to complete you will do a practice sample in class, and then will be given a piece of muslin to complete the sampler with. You will have some class time to work on your samplers, but plan on spending majority of the time on them outside of class.

Pajama Pants:

-You will be making a pair of pajama pants fitted to you this semester. You will be responsible for purchasing the fabric needed, and matching thread, as well as washing the fabric before the project begins. Basic notions and the pajama pants pattern will be provided for you. Grades will be given based on the execution of techniques taught in class.

Lab Hours:

- In this course you are required to work two hours a week for 12 weeks in the costume shop, for a total of 24 hours. Your tasks will range from assisting the designers in pulling and restocking, sewing and altering garments as well as general costume shop maintenance. These hours will NOT be flexible so please choose wisely. (Think of this like a biology or chemistry lab). Hours begin the week of Sept 5th. You must sign in and out of the notebook log in order to receive credit for your lab hours. Only Donna Deverell or Casey Watkins can sign your log. If it is unsigned, you will receive no credit for that week of work. Failure to receive a passing grade (C- or above) in lab hours will result in a failing grade in the course. You may not make up lab hours without a doctor's note or proof of an emergency, although there may be opportunities for extra credit (depending on the current show's build). 24 hours equals 100% for your lab grade. There will be no lab hours the week of Thanksgiving or on Labor Day.

- The costume shop is open Monday- Thursday 1-5. If you have time conflicts that prevent you from completing the lab hours please contact the instructor before Friday, Sept 2nd, with a proof of conflicts. If you have not contacted me by then I will assume that there will be no issues in completing any of the required work.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

WORKING EMAIL REQUIREMENT: It is a course expectation that you have a working email address that you check daily. If you have not already acquired an email address through the university or otherwise, please make arrangements to do so before the next class meeting. There WILL be times that I need to contact you with important information and email is often the speediest and easiest way of doing so. Additionally, I will provide electronic copies of and any supplemental reading through eCollege and/or email.

WRITTEN WORK: Unfortunately, papers/projects do occasionally get lost. Please, for your sanity, save your work on a thumb drive, etc. Do not depend on your paper staying on the hard drive of any university computer, as it will be deleted, altered, or worse – turned in by someone else as their work! Be aware that it is a course expectation that you keep copies of your assignments until you receive your final grade for the semester.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Contacting Me:

Please feel free to visit me during my office hours at any time during the semester. I am here to help! If you can't make my office hours due to a scheduling conflict, please set up an appointment with me. Don't be a stranger! If something is occurring that is presenting you with difficulties in this class, let me know. I cannot help you if I don't know what is going on. The easiest and most reliable way to contact me is **via email**. Please do not leave a message for me in the main department office.

Emails to me must be written in a coherent, professional manner, with proper punctuation, grammar and capitalization. Think of it as practice for when you get a real job that utilizes email. ALWAYS SIGN YOUR NAME. Otherwise I have no idea who it might be from!

Student Resources:

Department of Theatre

Performing Arts Center (PAC) #101

Phone: 903-886-5346 (Main Office)

<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/mmct/default.asp>

Communication Skills Center- USE FOR PAPERS!!!!

Hall of Languages #103

<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/CSC/index.htm>

TAMUC Counseling Center

Student Services Building Room 204

Phone: 903-886-5145

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES
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Course Specific Procedures:**Attendance Policy:**

You may accumulate three (3) absences before any penalty occurs.

You are allowed 3 absences for whatever reason. There are no additional absences allowed without penalty. Plan accordingly. There is no such thing as an “excused” absence. Any absences after that will result in a 50 point deduction. For this class, 8 absences will result in an F for the course, regardless of your grade.

Tardiness: Students who are not in class, ready to start at the beginning of class will be marked tardy. For every three times tardy, the student will be marked absent. This class is demonstration based, and extremely difficult to make up or reshow demonstrations. Please plan accordingly. Do not expect the instructor to reteach a demonstration because you arrive late. It is disruptive to the class.

Cell Phone Use:

The use of cell phones, pagers, beepers, and any electronic devices not explicitly necessary for this course is not allowed. Students ignoring this request will be asked to leave.

Late Work:

I do not accept late work.

Extra Credit:

The instructor reserves the right to offer extra-credit to all students, and to gauge its application appropriately and uniformly for all.

Incompletes:

Under normal circumstances, an Incomplete (I or X) will NOT be given for a final grade in this course. Per University policy, students who **because of circumstances beyond their control** are unable to attend classes will, upon approval of their instructor, receive a mark of X (incomplete) in all courses in which they were **maintaining passing grades at the time of the request** for an incomplete.

University Specific Policies and Procedures:**Academic Dishonesty:**

This course adheres strictly to the college’s guidelines for Academic Dishonesty printed in the *Student’s Guide Handbook*. Plagiarism, cheating, or otherwise representing another’s work or ideas as your own without proper attribution will not be tolerated. All work must be new and created for this class during this semester by you. It is your responsibility to ensure that you

understand the definition of Academic Dishonesty at Texas A&M-Commerce. If such an instance occurs, the student will receive an automatic zero for the work in question, and I will immediately report the incident to the Head of the Department. (*You should be aware that this could result in dismissal from school without credit for the semester.*)

Students with a Disability:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

Student Conduct:

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (*See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus<<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>> document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web

url:<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Readings and assignments are due on the days on which they are listed below. There are no "make-ups" for IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES.

COURSE SCHEDULE

INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE SCHEDULE IF NECESSARY

M Aug 29 Intro to Course and syllabus

W Aug 31 Shop and theatre tour

Monday, January 25th- LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH 80% REFUND

F Sept 2 Scavenger Hunt

M Sept 5 **NO CLASS LABOR DAY**

Monday, September 5- LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH 80% REFUND

W Sept 7 Hand Sewing
Ruler Worksheet Due

F Sept 9 Hand Sewing- Basting, Running, Backstitch

M Sept 12 Hand Sewing- Catch stitch
Monday, September 12- LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH 70% REFUND

W Sept 14 Hand Sewing- Slip Stitch

F Sept 16 Hand Sewing- Blanket Stitch

M Sept 19 Hand Sewing- Hooks and Eyes
Monday, September 19- LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH 50% REFUND

Wed Sept 21 Hand Sewing- Snaps

F Sept 23 Hand Sewing- Buttons

M Sept 26 Hand Sewing

Monday, September 26- LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH 25% REFUND

W Sept 28 Hand Sewing

F Sept 30 Hand Sewing

M Oct 3 Machine Sewing

W Oct 5 Machine Sewing
Hand Sampler Due

F Oct 7 Machine Sewing

M Oct 10 Machine Sewing
Machine Worksheet Due

DoT Production Acting: First Six Lessons October 11-16

W Oct 12 Machine Sewing

F Oct 14 Machine Sewing

M Oct 17 Machine Sewing

W Oct 19 Machine Sewing

F Oct 21 Machine Sewing

M Oct 24 Machine Sewing

W Oct 26 Machine Sewing

F Oct 28 Serger Use

M Oct 31 Machine Work Day

W Nov 2 Machine Work Day

Thursday, Nov. 3 - LAST DAY TO DROP A CLASS WITH Q GRADE

F Nov 4 Machine Work Day

Sunday, April 3rd - LAST DAY TO DROP A CLASS WITH Q GRADE

M Nov 7 Patterns

Machine Sampler Due

W Nov 9 Patterns

F Nov 11 Cutting

M Nov 14 Cutting

Pattern Worksheet Due

DoT Production *The Dispute* November 15-20

W Nov 16 Serging

F Nov 18 Pajama Pants

M Nov 21 Pajama Pants

W Nov 23 and F Nov 25 **NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK**
Sunday, Nov 27 - LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW

M Nov 28 Pajama Pants

W Nov 30 Pajama Pants

F Dec 2 Pajama Pants

M Dec 5 Pajama Pants

W Dec 7 Pajama Pants

F Dec 9 **Pajama Party!**
Pajama Pants and Lab Hours Due