THR 417: Theatrical Costume Construction I: Advanced Sewing and Patterning
Karen Kangas-Preston
Phone: 353-9219
Email: kangaspr@msu.edu

Fall 2006
MWF 9:10-11:00
Costume Shop, Room 44/46 AUD

Description of Course
Sewing and Patterning methods used in theatrical costuming, covering the basics and beyond of different machinery, stitching techniques, and patterning types.

Goals
To take the student from basic knowledge to advanced, thereby creating a highly skilled costume technician.

Required Text/Materials
Ingham and Covey Costume Technician’s Handbook 3rd Ed. (CTH in assignment section)
Course pack available at Ned’s (CP in assignment section)

Students will be expected to provide their own fabrics, thread, marking implements, scissors, and rulers. A complete list will be given at the first class meeting. Students may wish to place a bulk order of muslin from Dharma Trading Co.

Recommended texts (copies available for use in the costume shop)
**Jaffe Draping for Fashion Design (highly recommended)
Armstrong Patternmaking for Fashion Design
Janet Arnold Patterns of Fashion (3 volumes)
Hill and Bucknell The Evolution of Fashion
Holkeboer Patterns for Theatrical Costumes
Hunnisett Period Costumes for Stage and Screen
Shaeffer Couture Sewing Techniques
Waugh Cut of Men’s Clothes and Cut of Women’s Clothes
Cunningham Basic Sewing for Costume Construction (to use as an example for the sampler book)

Projects
Class will focus in three major areas: construction techniques, patterning and draping.

Major Projects: Sampler book, fabric swatch file, commercial pattern construction project, period garment construction project

Sampler book will be presented as a 3 ring binder to include all sewing samples done with written instruction/personal notes for each. See complete list of what to include.

Swatch file to be presented as a book or in boxes. Each swatch should include the fabric name, fiber content, weave, and finish (if necessary). See list of what to include.
All sewing projects (unless designated as mock ups) will be completely finished (closures, hems, seam finishing, etc.) in muslin or fabric of student’s choice. Some projects may require a “model” to build to fit. Model may be of student’s choice. Some projects are of student’s choice/design but require instructor approval.

**Class Expectations**

Attendance is mandatory. Missed classes will result in a lowered grade. Much of the work can be completed in class, however major projects will need to be worked on outside of class in order to meet due dates. The costume shop equipment can be used with advanced notice (during high volume times in the shop class work may be denied; Room 125 can be used as an alternate space, if available). Late work will not be accepted.

**Schedule**  
*all reading assignments are to be done in advance*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | 8-28 | Intro to class, begin discussion of shop Equipment, begin sampler book | Begin sampler book due 9-8  
Read CTH Chapters 1& 2 |
| 1    | 8-30 | In class work on samplers | Read CP Section 1; CTH 173-227 |
| 1    | 9-1  | In class work on samplers | |
| 2    | 9-4  | No class-Labor Day | |
| 2    | 9-6  | In class work on samplers | |
| 2    | 9-8  | Sampler book due | |
| 3    | 9-11 | Discussion of fabric swatch files | Begin fabric swatch file due 10-18  
Read CTH Chapter 3 |
| 3    | 9-13 | Commercial patterns | Begin garment due 9-20  
Read CTH 94-106; 164-173;  
Read CP Section 2 |
| 3    | 9-15 | In class work on garment | |
| 4    | 9-18 | In class work on garment | |
| 4    | 9-20 | Commercial pattern garment due | |
| 4    | 9-22 | Pattern alterations | Begin altered pattern mock up due 10-2  
Read CTH Ch 6; CP Section 3 |
| 5    | 9-25 | In class work on pattern alteration | |
| 5    | 9-27 | In class work on pattern alteration | |
| 5    | 9-29 | In class work on pattern alterations/mock up | |
| 6    | 10-2 | Mock up of pattern alteration due | |
| 6    | 10-4 | Sloper drafting with sleeve | Begin sloper draft due 10-6  
Read CTH 106-115; 126-128; 135-137 |
| 6    | 10-6 | Sloper mock up and fitting | |
| 7    | 10-9 | Pattern manipulation | Princess seam due 10-11  
Read CTH 115-129 |
| 7    | 10-11 | Pattern manipulation | Yoked bodice due 10-13 |
| 7    | 10-13 | Pattern manipulation | Designed bodice due 10-16 |
| 8 | 10-16 | Intro to draping | Draped basic bodice due 10-18  
Read CTH 130-135; CP Section 4 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10-18</td>
<td>Draped bodice variation</td>
<td>Bodice variation due 10-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10-20</td>
<td>Draped bodice from design</td>
<td>Designed bodice due 10-23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 9 | 10-23 | Draping skirts | Basic skirt drape due 10-25  
Read CP Section 5 |
| 9 | 10-25 | Draping skirt variations | Variation due 10-27 |
| 9 | 10-27 | Draping from design | Designed skirt due 10-30 |
| 10 | 10-30 | Designed skirt due/  
Intro to period pattern drafting | Begin pattern draft due 11-3 |
| 10 | 11-1 | In class work on pattern draft |
| 10 | 11-3 | Pattern draft due |
| 11 | 11-6 | Construct from pattern draft | Begin period garment due 11-13 |
| 11 | 11-8 | In class work on period garment |
| 11 | 11-10 | In class work on period garment |
| 12 | 11-13 | Period garment due/ Design of final project | Final design approved by 11-22 |
| 12 | 11-15 | Alterations of period patterns | Begin altering pattern; fit mock up due 11-22 |
| 12 | 11-17 | In class work on altered pattern/Mockup |
| 13 | 11-20 | In class work on altered pattern/Mockup |
| 13 | 11-22 | Period garment alteration due |
| 13 | 11-24 | No class-Thanksgiving |
| 14 | 11-27 | Begin work on final project | Final project due 12-14 |
| 14 | 11-29 | Work on final project |
| 14 | 12-1 | Work on final project |
| 15 | 12-4 | Work on final project |
| 15 | 12-6 | Work on final project |
| 15 | 12-8 | Work on final project |
| 16 | 12-14 | Final Exam 7:45 a.m. |

**Grading:**

**Attendance 10%**

**4 Major projects 20%**  
Sampler book  
Fabric swatch file  
Commercial pattern garment  
Period pattern garment

**Final project 20%**  
13 Minor projects 50%  
Altered commercial pattern mockup  
Basic sloper draft  
Princess seam pattern  
Yoke pattern  
Designed bodice pattern  
Basic sloper drape  
Draped bodice variation  
Draped design variation  
Basic skirt drape  
Skirt drape variation  
Skirt drape design variation  
Period pattern draft  
Period pattern alteration mock up
Sample book:

**Hand sewing:**
- Running stitch
- Hand gathering
- Backstitch
- Prick stitch
- Slip stitch
- Slip basting
- Fell stitch
- Hemming stitch
- Catch or cross stitch
- Blind hem
- Cross stitch hem
- Whipstitch or overcast
- Pad stitch
- Buttonhole stitch

**Fasteners:**
- Shank button
- Two- or four-hole button
- Hook and eye
- Snap
- Velcro (hand and machine)

**Machine sewing:**
- Plain 5/8” seam
- Basting
- Gathering stitches
- Blind hem
- Flat-felled seam
- French seam
- Shirt tail hem

**Seam finishes:**
- Serged edge
- Pinked edge
- Turned and stitched edge
- Overcast/serged edge
- Zig zag edge
- Self-bound edge

**Edge finishes:**
- Bias bound
- Piped or corded
- Self-bound
- Neck/armhole facing

**Special techniques:**
- Darts: both one-point dart and “football” dart
- Trimmed and graded seams (with 4 layers: 2 fabric, 2 interfacing)
- Inner corners
- Outer corners
- Inner curve
- Outer curve
- Taped seams
- Buttonhole (regular machine)
- Bound buttonhole
- Hand sewn buttonhole
- Button loops
- Centered zipper
- Lapped zipper
- Invisible zipper
- Hook and eye tape
- Welt pocket
- Double piping pocket with flap
- Continuous lap/Placket (skirt or neck)
- Thread chains
- Thread bars
Fabric Swatch File:

Plain weaves:
Batiste
Cheesecloth
Chiffon
Crepe de chine
Organdy
Voile
Calico
Challis
Chambray
China silk
Chintz
Crepe
Flannel
Gingham
Muslin
Percale
Silk shantung
Burlap
Butcher cloth
Homespun
Seersucker
Tweed

Rib weaves:
Broadcloth
Faille
Ottoman
Poplin
Shantung
Taffeta

Crepe weave:
Crepe
Crepe back satin

Basket weaves:
Canvas/duck
Hopsacking
Oxford cloth

Twill weaves:
Denim
Gabardine
Herringbone
Surah (silk twill)
Ticking

Satin weaves:
Satin
Sateen

Specialty weaves:
Marquisette/leno
Pique
Dobby
Dotted Swiss
Eyelash

Jacquard weaves:
Brocade
Damask
Coutil

Pile weaves:
Corduroy
Velvet
Velveteen
Velour
Panne velvet
Terrycloth

Knits:
Jersey
Rib
Double knit
Tricot

Non-woven:
Net
Lace
Felt
Vinyl
Leather

Finishes:
Printed
Batik
Seersucker
Plisse
Embossed
Moiré
Flocked