

# Duke Ellington School of the Arts

Technical Design & Production Department

## Costume Technology (QTA) 2018-2019

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### Course Catalog Description and Outline

#### COSTUME TECHNOLOGY (QTA)

This is an optional course in the Duke Ellington Technical Design & Production career pathway. This sequence of courses prepares students for a career in costume technology in the technical theatre industry. Students will learn about stage costuming and experience the role of a theatrical costumer.

Intermediate students will work extensively on costume construction for theatre and dance productions as teams and individuals. They are introduced to draping and pattern alterations as well as fitting costumes to completion. Design and rendering projects include historical research for period pieces.

Introduction to fabrications and their uses in costume design. Research and explore fabric stores, trims, adornments, accessories, notions, under garments and foundations. Explore costume designs through magazines, galleries, FIT, NY Met, local designers, colleges, theatre productions...

Students will read, breakdown scripts, act as Assistant Designer, Costumers, Key Costumers, Fitters, Seamstresses, Wardrobe Supervisors, as well as budgets for projected shows scheduled to understand the costs involved.

Introduction to hats, head pieces for styling, image and costume design is necessary to complete a character analysis. Students will render sketches for characters using swatch fabrications to develop their costume portfolio as a final project.

Students will develop technical knowledge and expertise in sewing and support the artist sewer in problem solving creative projects. Sewing machine mechanics, accessories, and maintenance will be explained and explored, including computerized functions. Introduction to the different types of machines, the variety of feet, needles, their functions and other accessories and tips to help them use the best tools or notions for the task.

They will research requirements for entry level positions at theatres, unions, costume houses, manufacturing for the fashion industry, fashion colleges, as well as prepare a final portfolio and book of resources with contacts to facilitate a working knowledge in their career choice.

## **COURSE OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES**

At the end of the school year, the student should be able to:

- Converse in the vocabulary of the costume shop, wardrobe departmental needs and costume design, using the techniques and concepts learned to assist in productions and internships.
- Recognize fabrications and their care, labeling, as well as handling.
- Understand roles of the Costume Designer, Assistant costume designer, wardrobe supervisor, costumer, fitter, seamstress, cutter, patternmaker and their part in creating the character image.
- Understand the relationship the team of technical production components to create and support the vision of the director and writer.
- Envision an idea and sketch it, fabricate it, create a pattern, cut and sew to completion.
- Express ideas through costume imagery, opening their imagination to possibilities yet to be, that they may be able to work in this area of creativity.
- Work on a wardrobe crew to support a position of assistant costume designer, costumer, key and set costumer as well as research and prepare a character analysis for production.
- Refer to their Resource book and portfolio to enlist internships, scholarships and take advantage of opportunities in the theatre.

## **METHOD OF INSTRUCTION**

- Lecture and Demonstration
- Printed materials, scripts, history and photographs
- Hands on instruction
- Exposure to professionals in the industry in-house and on locations
- Duke Ellington show productions, performances and stage requirements
- Collaboration with industry professionals and standards

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

- Overview of Duke Ellington Costume Shop layout
- Inventory of costumes, fabrics, trims, notions, equipment, shoes and accessories
- Vocabulary of terms, labels, fabrics, descriptions needed
- Understanding and qualifications for positions in costume industry
- Communication using sketches, fabrications, descriptive colorizations
- Script analysis with historical research
- Theatre dept show performance participation in wardrobe positions
- Basic patterns
- Draping basics
- Flat pattern basics
- Show wardrobe preparation
- Final project, portfolio and resource book
- Internship with summer program at local theatre

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS/GRADING

Participation (10%): This includes punctuality; professionalism/respect; constructive comments and opinions; use of appropriate terminology; thoughtful criticisms; attentiveness; and class discussions.

Practice & Application (Total 50%): This includes student journals; written responses; research; individual and group tasks; home assignments; and presentations.

Assessments (Total 40%): This includes quizzes; student product; cumulative tasks, projects/portfolios; performance tasks; compositions; and unit tests.

## GRADING SCALE

The course will be graded on a combined point system (for exams and quizzes) and an evaluation system (for assignments and projects), plus any extra credits earned. Grading will correlate with the following:

POINT SYSTEM: PASS or FAIL SYSTEM:

A 93 - 100	B+ 87 - 89	C+ 77 - 79	D+ 67 - 69	Pass 10 pts
A- 90 - 92	B 83 - 86	C 73 - 76	D 64 - 66	Fail 0 pts
	B- 80 - 82	C- 70 - 72		F 63 and below

## EVALUATION POINT SYSTEM

A+ 5 pts Exceptional	Earning an "A+" means the student has exceeded advanced understanding and exceeds assignment and project expectations, demonstrating academically superior skills and innovation in that specific area.
A 4 pts Excellent	Earning an "A" means the student has exhibited advanced understanding and exceeds assignment and project expectations, demonstrating academically superior skills in that specific area. An "A" is difficult to obtain and indicates unusually high achievement.
B 3 pts Very Good	Earning a "B" means the student has exhibited proficient understanding and meets assignment and project expectations. A student receiving a "B" is right on track with the courses high academic expectations. A "B" is something to be celebrated!
C 2 pts Good/Satisfactory/ Ok	Earning a "C" means the student has exhibited basic understanding and partially meets assignment and project expectations. A student receiving a "C" understands the basic concept or skill, but has not yet reached the proficient level.
D 1 pt Unsatisfactory	Earning a "D" means the student has exhibited minimal understanding and does not meet assignment and project expectations.

**F o pts Unacceptable**      Earning a “F” means the student has failed to exhibit minimal understanding and does not meet assignment and project expectations.

### **ATTENDANCE REPORTING:**

- Attendance is entered during the first 10-15 minutes of the class period.
- Attendance is updated at the end of the class to reflect students who arrived late and should have their mark changed from Absent to Tardy.

### **ATTENDANCE IMPACT ON GRADE**

- Grade reduction for 5 unexcused absences in a quarter.
- Automatic “FA” for 10 unexcused absences in a quarter.
- Automatic “F” for 30 unexcused absences in a year.

### **GRADE REPORTING EXPECTATIONS**

- 4 Participation grades entered per quarter
- 5 Practice & Application grades entered per quarter
- 4 Assessment grades entered per quarter
- A minimum of 2 grades entered every 10 business days
- A 10 business day turnaround on any assignment handed in to be graded and entered into Aspen

### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

- All work must be neat and turned in on time. Work that is late or in an improper form **MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED**.
- The student must attend **ALL** class meetings. It is the responsibility of the student to clear all absences with the instructor.
- Students who miss an examination, quiz or assignment must present a signed and dated official excuse (such as one from a physician or a DESA administrator) and schedule to complete the missed work within one week after returning to class.
- The instructor reserves the right to consult with others to determine the student's performance on an assignment.
- The instructor reserves the right to modify the course content and direction, as well as method of evaluation, if circumstances prove this necessary. The students will be given ample notice if any changes are needed.
- No cheating will be tolerated! All tests and assignments are to be your work, and any quoting or borrowing of ideas of others **MUST BE ACKNOWLEDGED**, and properly denoted.

\*This Syllabus is subject to change.

(REVISED 8/16/18)