

TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY  
COMMERCE

**THE 349.001 Theatrical Costuming**  
**Spring 2014**  
**Location: PAC 126 MWF 9:00-9:50am**  
**Lab: PAC 116 Time TBA, 1 hour**

**Instructor:** Kelly D. Switzer, MFA

**Office Location:** PAC 130

**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday 10-11am, Tuesday and Thursday 11-12am, and by appointment

**Office Phone:** 903-886-5319

**University Email Address:** [Kelly.Switzer@tamuc.edu](mailto:Kelly.Switzer@tamuc.edu)

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:**

Textbook Required: *Costume Design* by Barbara and Cletus Anderson, Second Edition

Plays Required:     *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams  
                          *A Christmas Carol* by Romulus Linney (available online)  
                          A full-length play of your choice, approved by instructor

Other Readings provided in class or through eCollege, see Course Outline/Calendar for specifics.

Supplies:           Drawing pencils—assorted hardness (B to H)  
                          Kneaded eraser  
                          Colored pencils  
                          A second media (gouache, watercolor, marker, pen and ink, computer renderings)  
                          Sketch pad no smaller than 9"x12"  
                          Watercolor paper no smaller than 9"x12" if your second media is wet  
                          A portfolio or other way to bind your final project  
                          1 yard of cotton fabric  
                          1 bag of Polyfil  
                          1 Special Project pattern—suitable to skill level  
                          Appropriate fabric, closures, and notions for Special Project

**Course Description:** An examination of the role of the costume designer. Course includes theory of costume design in relation to a unified stage production. A study of fabric, texture, line, mass, color, and periods of dress. Note: does not require the crewing of one production.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

When you have completed this course, you will be able to:

1. Analyze a play script and conduct research regarding the characters, period, style, and mood.

2. Create costume design sketches and renderings that visually communicate information about the characters in a clear and concise manner.
3. Explain the connection between analysis, research, and concept using oral, written, and visual communication.
4. Express an appreciation of, and analyze, creative works and works of the human imagination.
5. Critique theatrical productions in regards to the work of the costume designer.

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| <b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</b> |
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### **Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments**

- You are required to see two plays this semester *Exit, Pursued By A Bear* (February 18-23) and *Hollywood Arms* (April 22-27). Reserve tickets in advance as seating is. For reservations, call 903-886-5900. You will write a two-page analysis of each play, following the guidelines given to you on eCollege. Note the due dates in the syllabus. Additionally, be prepared to discuss these performances in class.
- You will need a personal copy of *The Glass Menagerie, A Christmas Carol* (Linney), and a full-length play of your choice. We will be analyzing and designing for all three plays, make sure you have read them before the dates in the syllabus. Come prepared to discuss. This is a small class; it will be very clear to everyone else if you have not come with the play read and prepared to discuss.
- We will complete a variety of assignments this semester. All assignments (research, rough sketches, design exercises) are due by the top of class, note the due dates and allow your assignments time to dry if needed—I will not accept wet work.
- Tests and exams cannot be made up except in cases of dire emergency, and then only within 48 hours of the test date. You must contact me as soon as possible to schedule a make up test.

### **Grading**

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| Short Story Analysis                         | 25           |
| Figure Drawing From Images                   | 25           |
| Figure Drawing From Life                     | 25           |
| Secondary Media Fabric Rendering Exercise    | 25           |
| Design Analysis Exercise                     | 25           |
| <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> Costume Chart     | 50           |
| <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> Research Exercise | 50           |
| <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> Rough Sketch      | 75           |
| <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> Costume Design    | 150          |
| <i>A Christmas Carol</i> Research Exercise   | 50           |
| <i>A Christmas Carol</i> Rough Sketch        | 75           |
| <i>A Christmas Carol</i> Costume Design      | 150          |
| <i>Third Play</i> Rough Sketch               | 75           |
| <i>Third Play</i> Costume Design             | 150          |
| Test 1                                       | 100          |
| Test 2                                       | 100          |
| <i>Exit, Pursued By A Bear</i> Analysis      | 150          |
| <i>Hollywood Arms</i> Analysis               | 150          |
| Design Portfolio                             | 150          |
| Stitching Sample                             | 50           |
| Pillow                                       | 50           |
| Special Project                              | 50           |
| <br>Total                                    | <br>1750 pts |

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Exceptional work will warrant an  | A=90% (1575 pts +)        |
| Above average work will warrant a | B=80% (1400-1574 pts)     |
| Average work will warrant a       | C=70% (1125-1399 pts)     |
| Below average work will warrant a | D=60% (1050-1124 pts)     |
| Unacceptable work will warrant a  | F=59% or less (>1049 pts) |

### Extra Credit

Extra credit is at the discretion of the professor and will be announced in class and on eCollege.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to check their myLeo accounts on a regular basis for communications about the course. Students will also need to access eCollege regularly for readings and assignment instructions.

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course will be enhanced by using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx>. You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu).

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

### Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. My contact information is at the top of this syllabus.

All emails should be from your LeoMail account—do not use your personal email account for official academic correspondence. All emails should include:

- A salutation
- Your full name and course
- Your comment or question stated or asked in a civil tone. Please avoid “textspeak” and proofread your email before sending—smiley faces are okay. ☺ Keep in mind that all campus emails are official documents that belong to the University.

If you are having issues with eCollege, please contact Technical Support. Their information is below:

**eCollege Student Technical Support** (QM 6.6, 7.1) Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**Chat Support:** Click on 'Live Support' on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.

**Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

**Email:** [helpdesk@online.tamuc.org](mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org) to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

**Help:** Click on the 'Help' button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. How to submit to Dropbox, How to post to discussions etc...)

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course Specific Procedures:

- Please do not be late to my class. If you are late, enter as unobtrusively as possible and find the nearest open seat.
- I do not allow makeup work, except tests in cases of emergency. I will expect some documentation of this emergency before allowing a makeup test. **You must arrange with me to makeup the test BEFORE I pass the corrected tests back to the class (usually the next class period).**
- Come to class. If you aren't here, you aren't getting your money's worth and your grade will suffer.
- Come to class prepared. I will make every attempt to remind you ahead of time what art supplies are needed on which days, but when in doubt check the syllabus.

### University Specific Procedures:

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  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)  
Gee Library  
Room 132  
Fax (903) 468-8148

### Student Conduct:

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. From the Code of Student Conduct: "Civility in the classroom or online course and respect for the opinions of others is very important in an academic environment. It is likely you may not agree with everything that is said or discussed in the classroom/online course. Courteous behavior and responses are expected. To create and preserve a learning environment that optimizes teaching and learning, all participants share a responsibility in creating a civil and non-disruptive forum. Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that does not disrupt teaching or learning. Faculty have the authority to request students who exhibit inappropriate behavior to leave the class/online course and may refer serious offenses to the University Police Department and/or the Dean of Students for disciplinary action."

The Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook can be found here:  
<http://web.tamuc.edu/studentLife/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

### Academic Honesty:

Students will adhere to the tenets of academic honesty while in this class. Academic dishonesty includes working on non-group projects with others, deception, impersonation, cheating during a test, and plagiarism. These are all offenses that warrant disciplinary action up to, and including, an F in the course. Additionally, any student found guilty of a

Breach of Conduct, including Academic Honest, could face the following disciplinary actions imposed by the University:

- (1) Expulsion from the University. Students may not return to the University.
- (2) Suspension from the University for a definite or indefinite period of time.
- (3) Disciplinary probation with or without loss of designated privileges for a specified period of time. The violation of the terms of disciplinary probation or the infraction of any University rules
- (4) Loss of privileges.
  - a. Denial of the use of an automobile for a designated time (on campus).
  - b. Removal from elective or appointive office.
  - c. Ineligibility for pledging, initiation, and representation of the University.
  - d. Removal from residence hall or other University housing.
  - e. Loss of such other privileges as may be consistent with the offense committed and the rehabilitation of the student.
- (5) Admonition and warning.
- (6) Notification of parents.
- (7) Such other actions as may be approved by the University Discipline Committee or the Dean for Campus Life and Student Development.

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's information without proper and formal citation. Information about avoiding plagiarism can be found here: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>

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| <b>COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR</b> |
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Mon. Jan. 13 Course Orientation, review of syllabus

Wed. Jan. 15 Handout: "A Typical Production Process"  
Discussion of basic theatre vocabulary

Fri. Jan. 17 Script Analysis

Week One: No Lab

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Mon. Jan. 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Wed. Jan. 22 Chapter 1, *Costume Design, What It Is and What It Does*

Fri. Jan. 24 Chapter 2, *The Costume Approach*

Week Two: Parts of a sewing machine

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Mon. Jan. 27 Short Story Analysis: start in class, complete and turn in by next class

Wed. Jan. 29 Test 1: Chapters 1 and 2, Sewing Machine  
Short Story Analysis due

Fri. Jan. 31 Discussion of *The Glass Menagerie*

Week Three: Stitching

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Mon. Feb. 3 Discussion of costume charts, *TGM* Costume Chart: start in class, complete and turn in by next class

Wed. Feb. 5 Chapter 3, *Developing the Basic Concept*  
TGM Costume Chart due

Fri. Feb. 7 Elements of Design Exercise in class (bring sketch pad, pencils, eraser)

Week Four: Stitching Continued

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Mon. Feb. 10 How to Research For a Production  
Discussion of TGM Research Assignment

Wed. Feb. 12 Chapter 4, *Developing the Line*

Fri. Feb. 14 Discussion of TGM Rough Sketch Exercise  
Present TGM Research Assignments

Week Five: Turn in Stitching Samples

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Mon. Feb. 17 Test 2: Chapters 3 and 4  
Reminder: be prepared for next class

Wed. Feb. 19 Figure Drawing From Images: start in class (bring sketch pad, pencils,  
eraser, and 5 images of the human body in a variety of poses)

Fri. Feb. 21 A look at designer renderings: Design Analysis Exercise in class

Week Six: Begin Pillows, bring 1 yard of cotton fabric

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Mon. Feb. 24 Discussion of *Exit, Pursued By A Bear*  
Figure Drawing From Images due

Wed. Feb. 26 Present TGM Rough Sketches

Fri. Feb. 28 Discussion of TGM Costume Design  
Figure Drawing From Life in class  
*Exit, Pursued By A Bear* Analysis due

Week Seven: Pillows Continued

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Mon. Mar. 3 Discussion of *A Christmas Carol*

Wed. Mar. 5 Discussion of *A Christmas Carol* assignments

Fri. Mar. 7 In-class work day: TGM Costume Design. Bring your materials to work on  
this assignment in class—if you do not, an alternate assignment will be  
given to you. Use this time wisely.

Week Eight: Turn in Pillows

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Mon. Mar. 10 Spring Break

- Wed. Mar. 12 Spring Break
- Fri. Mar. 14 Spring Break
- Mon. Mar. 17 Present *TGM* Costume Design
- Wed. Mar. 19 Present *TGM* Costume Design
- Fri. Mar. 21 Watch *The Glass Menagerie* (1973)

Week Nine: Begin Special Project, bring pattern

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- Mon. Mar. 24 Continue watching *The Glass Menagerie* (1973)
- Wed. Mar. 26 USITT
- Fri. Mar. 28 USITT

Week Ten: No lab

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- Mon. Mar. 31 Present ACC Research Assignments
- Wed. Apr. 2 In-class work day: ACC Rough Sketches. Bring your materials to work on this assignment in class—if you do not, an alternate assignment will be given to you. Use this time wisely.
- Fri. Apr. 4 In-class work day: ACC Rough Sketches. Bring your materials to work on this assignment in class—if you do not, an alternate assignment will be given to you. Use this time wisely.

Week Eleven: Special Project Continued, bring fabric and notions

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- Mon. Apr. 7 Secondary Media Fabric Rendering Exercise
- Wed. Apr. 9 Appendix A, *A Guide to the History of Clothing*
- Fri. Apr. 11 Present ACC Rough Sketches

Week Twelve: Special Project Continued

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- Mon. Apr. 14 Present ACC Rough Sketches
- Wed. Apr. 16 Women in Theatre: Carrie Robbins  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSdZr5ThGJM>
- Fri. Apr. 18 In-class work day: ACC Costume Design. Bring your materials to work on this assignment in class—if you do not, an alternate assignment will be given to you. Use this time wisely.

Week Thirteen: Special Project Continued

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Mon. Apr. 21 In-class work day: ACC Costume Design. Bring your materials to work on this assignment in class—if you do not, an alternate assignment will be given to you. Use this time wisely.

Wed. Apr. 23 Present ACC Costume Designs

Fri. Apr. 25 Present ACC Costume Designs

Week Fourteen: Turn in Special Project

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Mon. Apr. 28 Discussion of *Hollywood Arms*

Wed. Apr. 30 Discuss and review portfolio

Fri. May 2 In-class portfolio work day  
*Hollywood Arms* Analysis due. Bring your materials to work on this assignment in class—if you do not, an alternate assignment will be given to you. Use this time wisely.

**Final Exam: TBA, present portfolios**

*updated:1/7/2014*