

THTR 3769 - Costume Design

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 43860,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Katherine Garlick

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Associate Professor

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

MFA, Costume Design & Technology, Indiana University Bloomington

BA, Theatre, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Instructor Office Location: Bliss 1010

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Course Description

3769. Costume Design. Costume design for the stage through a study of script analysis, design concepts and principles, and costume rendering techniques. Prereq.: THTR 1559 or permission of instructor. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Magic Garment	Cunningham, Rebecca	9781478638155
Required	She Kills Monsters	Nguyen, Qui	9780573705649
Required	Crimes of the Heart	Henley, Beth	9780822202509
Required	Macbeth	Shakespeare, William	

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Introduction & Syllabus Overview Why Costumes? What Dress Can Tell Us.	Read: Chapter 1 (Understanding Stage Costumes)
8/31	Types of Research: Evocative, Interpreting a concept, Introduction to croquis Design from Evocative Research, Intro to Colored Pencils	Read: Chapter 2 (Understanding the Play)
9/7	Introduction to the Elements & Principles of Design Elements & Principles Exercise	Read: Chapter 3 (Doing Research)
9/14	Figure Drawing & Colored Pencil Techniques	Read: Chapter 4 (The Designer's Tools) READ: Crimes of the Heart
9/21	Script Analysis for Costumers – Line by line, Action charts, plots Crimes discussion, balancing history and design	Read: Chapter 5 (Developing the Costume) Work: Crimes plot and notes! Research!
9/28	Developing a costume, escaping the trap of first ideas Roughs & revisions	Ravenscroft Opens Oct 2 - SEE Ravenscroft Read: Chapter 6 (Rendering the Sketch) Work: Crimes roughs & research



10/5	Introduction to Watercolor (Bring supplies!) Sketchbook check-in	Ravenscroft paper due 10/11 Read: Ch. 7 (Choosing Fabrics)
10/12	Ravenscroft Design Discussion. Fabrics, swatching & design concerns	Work: Crimes Designs READ: Macbeth
10/19	Crimes of the Heart designs & paperwork due Crimes Presentations & Critique	READ: She Kills Monsters
10/26	Working collaboratively, the Designer & Director roles Watercolor Work, Figure Drawing work	WORK: Shakespeare Renderings
11/2	SKM discussion, project overview. Pull, buy, build? The practical demands of production	Read: Chapter 8 (Getting the Show Together)
11/9	Production schedules, the buyer's role Innovation & reimagining stock	Clue opens 11/13 - SEE Clue! Read: Chapter 9: (Designing for Film)
11/16	Designing for film, dance, opera – similarities & differences Costume crafts – how and who? Designing for crafts	Clue paper due 11/22 Read: Chapter 10 (Preparing for a Costume Design Career)
11/23	Clue: The Musical discussion NO CLASS 11/25 – University closed	
11/30	Getting the gig – where to find one, what to do when you do Portfolios, Letters & Resumes	Complete SKM Project
12/7	Finals week, no regular class meeting. Complete final project. CLASS FINAL – PROJECTS DUE Friday, Dec 11, 8-10AM Yes, it's early. I bring donuts.	Final project due

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