

Costume Design & Production Drama

Educating and training the theatre artists and artisans who will become the collaborators, innovators, and leaders of our profession, committed to the enrichment of diverse communities.

Course Syllabus: Fall 2017 **Mask Making 54-536/860**

CLASS MEETINGS: Tuesdays 10:00-12:20

ROOM: PCA 308, Costume Studio

INSTRUCTOR: Brian Russman

E-MAIL: brianr@andrew.cmu.edu

OFFICE: PCA 325

PHONE: 412.268.3648

OFFICE HOURS: Available by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course will be structured as a lecture/demonstration and lab that will allow students to explore and synthesize terminology, products and processes related to mask making for the theatre. While impossible to cover all processes in one course, it is the hope that in-class work time will allow students to learn from one another as each explores and conquers the different opportunities they encounter on the journey to final product.

There will be some discussion about the mask from the performer's viewpoint and projects will be "activated" by School of Drama students trained in the art of mask.

REQUIRED SUPPLIES (Include, but not limited to):

Many class supplies have been pre-purchased or are easily found in our craft studio. Some students may need to purchase specialty items on a per-project basis.

PROJECTS:

This course will consist of five (5) practical casting, sculpting and mask making projects. Each project will consist of multiple parts as further described in the individual assignment handouts to be provided when projects are assigned.

PROJECT #1: Slip Cast Mask	30 Points
PROJECT #2: Paper Mache Mask	30 Points
PROJECT #3: Thermo-Formable Mask	30 Points
PROJECT #4: Leather Mask	30 Points
PROJECT #5: Maquette / Foam Construction	30 Points

Students are responsible for material and information missed during absences.
LATE PROJECT WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT 24-HOUR PRIOR NOTICE.

GRADING:

Each class project will be evaluated on three criteria: Mastery of Concepts, Application of Skills, and Quality of Work. The student is expected to show development in all areas as the class progresses.

Projects will be evaluated on a 30-point system for a semester total of 150 points. The 30 project points are broken down as follows:

Mastery of Concepts:	10 Points
Application of Skills:	10 Points
Quality of Work:	10 Points

Mastery of Concepts measures a student's comprehension of and ability to explain course content

Application of Skills is representative of a student's ability to apply course concepts

Quality of Work measures the student's work against professional standards

Evaluation Matrix

Score	Mastery of Concepts	Application of Skills	Quality of Work
10	Exceeds class presentation and materials. Explains and contextualizes concepts for peers.	Consistently properly selects and applies skills and debugs skills for others.	Workmanship is at a level on par with the work produced by professionals in this industry
9	Easily synthesizes and explains concepts in relation to topics and applications.	Consistently applies proper skills without mistakes and recognizes errors in work when encountered.	Workmanship is consistently of a high enough standard to be considered professional.
8	Correctly explains course concepts with minimal mistakes.	Usually applies proper skills with minimal errors in work. Skills need finesse.	Workmanship overall can be considered neat and presentable.
7	Usually explains course concepts with occasional errors.	Usually selects and applies the proper skills and makes only occasional mistakes. Skills need work.	Shows potential for professional level workmanship through specific examples.

Although not listed, scores of less than 7 may be assigned when appropriate in the view of the instructor. Reasons for these scores may be based on (but are not limited to) poor attitude, tardiness, absence, disregard to safety and shop procedures, undisciplined or unprofessional behavior, game play or sabotage of work, or frequent required reinforcement of concepts or procedures.

A verbal evaluation of the semester may be done at semester reviews. Any student feeling they are not receiving adequate feedback and wanting a private evaluation may make an appointment to receive one at any time during the semester.

<u>Points:</u>	<u>Letter Grade:</u>
135 – 150	A
120 – 134	B
105 – 119	C
90 – 104	D
89 and Below	R

- A Exceptional work that consistently exceeds the standard expected. Student shows diligence, mastery of techniques, puts forth excellent effort and has a strong growth trajectory.
- B Good work that meets the standard expected of students. Work shows the application of techniques with good effort and growth.
- C Satisfactory work that minimally meets the standard expected but does little to go beyond. The work shows average application of techniques, minimal effort, and little growth.
- D Passing. Work markedly below the standard. Student shows minimum effort or below, lack of focus and inability to apply techniques. There is no growth.
- R Failing Grade – Student shows sub-par mastery of technique, presents a negative attitude and required course work is missing.

Grades in the School of Drama measure a student's progress toward mastery in their field. Expectations of progress are defined within each option and for each level of the curriculum. In addition, the School of Drama expects its students to maintain a "B" average in their major area.

***Take care of yourself.** Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, avoiding drugs and alcohol, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone. There are many helpful resources available on campus and an important part of the college experience is learning how to ask for help. Asking for support sooner rather than later is often helpful. If you or anyone you know experiences any academic stress, difficult life events, or feelings like anxiety or depression, we strongly encourage you to seek support. Consider reaching out to a friend, faculty or family member you trust for help getting connected to the support that can help.*

If you or someone you know is feeling suicidal or in danger of self-harm, call someone immediately, day or night:

CaPS: 412-268-2922 <http://www.cmu.edu/counseling/>

Re:solve Crisis Network: 888-796-8226

If the situation is life threatening, call the police:

ON CAMPUS, CMU POLICE: 412-268-2323 / OFF CAMPUS POLICE: 911

CLASS MEETINGS:

August 29, 2017:

Introduction | Mask Styles | Performer's Viewpoint | Repairing and Preparing the Plaster Mold

September 5, 2017:

MASK FACTS: Masks in Antiquity

Latex (Resin) Casting | Hair Punching | Attachment Techniques | Paint Techniques | Linings

ASSIGN: Project #1

September 12, 2017:

MASK FACTS: Jacques LeCoq
Open Structures | Assemblages
PLAY DAY: Recyclables

September 19, 2017:

MASK FACTS: W.B. Benda
Paper Maché Techniques
DUE: Project #1 at beginning of class
ASSIGN: Project #2

September 26, 2017:

MASK FACTS: Commedia dell'arte
WORK DAY: Paper Maché

October 3, 2017:

MASK FACTS: Carnival of Venice
Thermo-Formables
ASSIGN: Project #3

October 10, 2017:

MASK FACTS: Mummenschanz
Leather
DUE: Project #2 at beginning of class
ASSIGN: Project #4

October 17, 2017:

WORK DAY

October 24, 2017:

MASK FACTS: Anna Coleman Ladd
Polygon Masks | Maquettes | Foam Constructions
ASSIGN: Project #5

October 31, 2017:

MASK FACTS: Halloween
DUE: Project #3
PLAY DAY: Polygon Structures

November 7, 2017:

WORK DAY

November 14, 2017:

MASK FACTS: Bread and Puppet Theatre
DUE: Project #4
WORK DAY: Project #5

November 21, 2017:

MASK FACTS: Basil Twist

PLAY DAY: Puppet Techniques | Moveable Parts

November 28, 2017

MASK FACTS: Balloon Designers

DUE: Project #6

Masks are Activated

December 5, 2017:

NO CLASSES---Playground