

**Ramapo College of New Jersey
School of Contemporary Arts**

Costume & Fashion in **Britain**

SYLLABUS

Costume & Fashion in Britain
THEA 337
1 unit (4 credit hours)
Summer 2014
Fulfills: Gen Ed International Issues
Fulfills: Theater elective

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Costume Design
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This Study Abroad course focuses on costume and fashion in Britain as it relates to theater, television and film. This course will link the study and research of costume history and contemporary dress to specific scripts and performance that students will read and subsequently view while in the United Kingdom. Students will learn the process and approach costume designers employ when designing a production and apply this knowledge to written analysis of performance in theater and film that they will view abroad and in class and serve as a foundation for class discussion. These scripts and performances will be in a variety of eras that reflect (or satirize) the culture, mores, and social structure of society in each. There will be a component on British royal costume history and its influence on fashion. Students will immerse themselves in British culture by attending theater performances, visiting exhibits, costume houses and museums with strong fashion focus, both historical and contemporary, in New York, London, Bath and Stratford. Learning will be enhanced by curator-led tours at museums and workshops at theaters like Stratford, the National Theater and/or the Globe. Students will learn cultural differences between our two countries by observing fashion first-hand in New York and London, analyzing and reflecting on these differences in a daily journal that will be graded at the conclusion of the course. Students will also demonstrate this understanding in a design-based final project accompanied by a final paper.

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

Student will experience costume and fashion from a British standpoint through immersion in British drama, seeing theater and fashion in Britain and bringing their experiences to written and visual work through reflection understanding and discussion.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will have a greater understanding of the British cultural identity through its fashion and drama in its current form and historical context.
2. Students will enhance their appreciation for British theatrical culture and performance by studying plays and viewing performances representing a variety of time periods in Britain's history.
3. Students will experience costume and fashion through Britain's rich cultural history through visits to cultural sites that inform the study of fashion in its historical environment and will bring those experiences to written and visual work through reflection, understanding and discussion.
4. Students will understand current fashion culture and its application to performance via written and visual reflection and observation of daily fashion and cultural activities.
5. Student will appreciate British theatrical culture, fashion and performance as distinct from our own through analysis and comparison.
6. Students will understand how the unique environment and local natural resources and trade have influenced British fashion throughout history.
7. Students will synthesize their acquired knowledge culminating in a written and visually presented form.
8. Demonstrate adequate understanding of the complex and dynamic relationships between local, regional and global forces that shape globalization processes in the contemporary world, as they pertain to history, values, art, politics, literature, communication styles, economy, or development, and the beliefs and practices that shape these processes.

	Class discussions	Site & museum visits	Viewing performances	Short papers	Journal	Final project
Outcome 1	X	X	X		X	X
Outcome 2	X	X	X			
Outcome 3	X	X		X	X	X
Outcome 4					X	X
Outcome 5					X	
Outcome 6		X				
Outcome 7						X
Outcome 8	X			X	X	X

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Final Grade Determination

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
>95	95-91	90-87	86-84	83-81	80-78	77-75	74-70	69-66	65-61	<60

CLASSROOM PARTICIPATION: Each student is expected to fulfill all assignments and be prepared to discuss them in class. Assignments that are due will be lowered by half a letter grade if an assignment is submitted late irrespective of absence. Extenuating circumstances must be discussed before the assignment is due.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is mandatory for all classes and cultural trips. More than three absences will result in lowering your grade by one half a letter grade. Two late arrivals to class after 10 minutes count as an absence.

EVALUATION:

In class performance	10%	(Attendance, preparedness and participation)
Homework projects	30%	
Final project/paper	30%	
Journal	30%	

REQUIRED TEXTS:

The choices, to the extent that it is possible, would be determined by what shows students will see while in Britain.

A Shakespeare play, coordinated with Old Globe Theater production Spring 2014 and/or the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford

A 17th/18th c. Drama. Examples:

A Country Wife by William Wycherley
School for Scandal or *School for Wives* by Richard Brinsley Sheridan
She Stoops to Conquer by Oliver Goldsmith
 19th/early 20th c. by Oscar Wilde or George Bernard Shaw
 Examples:
The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde
Lady Windemere's Fan by Oscar Wilde
Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw
Misalliance, Candida, or Arms and the Man, by George Bernard Shaw

A 1920's/30's play. Examples:

Private Lives, Design for Living, Hay Fever, Present Laughter, The Vortex, by Noel Coward
 Tom Stoppard – *Travesties, Arcadia*

A contemporary play, late 20th to the present: *The choice here will be made in the spring when companies' offerings are made known to the public: such as The National Theater, Almeida, Donmar Warehouse, Menier Chocolate Factory, etc.*

Readings from:

Excerpts from *Royal Dress* by Valerie Cummings

Holmes & Meier, New York, 1989. ISBN 0-8419-1267-X

Phyllis Cunnington, *Ceremonial Costume*, Plays, Inc.

There will be selected reading distributed in class relevant to period costume.

Electronic Forms of Communication

In accordance with College policy, I will use your Ramapo College email address (@ramapo.edu) to communicate with you about all course-related matters. Course information including assignments, handouts and links can be found on the Luminis page for this course. There will also be a Moodle site for the course where lecture powerpoints may be posted. In addition, there will also be a library page for the course with information and links.

General Education Course

This course fulfills the International Issues category (GINT) in the general education program. Students will immerse themselves in British culture and history through the lens of costume for performance and fashion in contemporary culture. They will learn the influence of history, politics and society norms in a variety of historical and contemporary contexts on the design for theater and performance in a variety of media. The objective of courses in this category is to provide a context through which students learn to interpret and critically analyze recent world events, focusing on the coordination of economic, cultural, social, and political activities. Students will examine the cultural connections and differences between Britain and America with application to course content in their assignments.

Policy on Academic Integrity

Students are expected to read and understand Ramapo College's academic integrity policy, which can be found in the Ramapo College Catalog. Members of the Ramapo College community are expected to be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. Students who violate this policy will be referred to the Office of the Provost.

Students with Disabilities

If you need course adaptation or accommodations because of a disability that is documented with OSS (the Office of Specialized Services), please make an appointment with me.

College Policy on Religious Observance

"College policy states that students must notify faculty within the first three weeks of the semester if they anticipate missing any classes due to religious observance."

TENTATIVE 2014 SCHEDULE (*Subject to Change*)

Date	Activities
Tuesday, May 20 th	Academic & Pre-departure orientations Film #1: <i>Shakespeare in Love</i> – discussion Assignment #1: read Shakespeare play; costume design research assignment
Wednesday, May 21 st	Field Trip to NYC – Metropolitan Museum Afternoon trip to the Costume Collection at the Kaufman Astoria Studios(Astoria Queens)
Thursday, May 22 nd	Film #2: <i>Importance of Being Earnest</i> lunch on-campus afternoon session Costume shop session to look at period Victorian clothing.
Friday, May 23 rd	Field trip to FIT Museum in NYC – downtown walking tour & field observations
Saturday, May 24 th	Class at Ramapo College Shakespeare Homework Due / Discussion 1 st play Assignment – Read 2 nd Play Dinner at Professor Shamash’s House (Nyack, NY)
Sunday, May 25 th	Free Day
Monday, May 26 th	<i>Importance of Being Earnest</i> Homework Due Leave the USA for London (overnight flight)

Tuesday, May 27 th	Arrival to London On-site orientation Double-decker bus tour and River Thames cruise Welcome dinner
Wednesday, May 28 th	Class at Student Residence Tour of Victoria & Albert Costume Court with curator West End Performance
Thursday, May 29 th	Class at Student Residence Afternoon tour of Global Theater Evening performance at Globe as Groundling
Friday, May 30 th	Class at Student Residence Backstage tour of the Royal National Theater Evening performance at Royal National Theater
Saturday, May 31 st	Visit to Rose Theater with walk-through Matinee at Menier Chocolate Factory Visit to Market
Sunday, June 1 st	Bath (Day Trip): Tour Fashion Museum, Assembly Rooms and Roman Baths
Monday, June 2 nd	Visit Leighton House Afternoon observation tour with Professor Shamash
Tuesday, June 3 rd	Visit Hampton Court Palace
Wednesday, June 4 th	Stratford-Upon-Avon (Day Trip): Shakespeare Tour and Workshop; Evening Performance
Thursday, June 5 th	Angels Costumiers Tour Evening show at Donmar or Almeida
Friday, June 6 th	Fashion District Walking Tour Zandra Rhodes Museum
Saturday, June 7 th	Optional Vintage Costume & Textile Fair

Sunday, June 8 th	Museum of London Farewell Dinner
Monday, June 9 th	Depart London for the U.S.A.
Monday, June 30 th	Journals and Streetwear assignment due Final Paper/Projects Due