Thea 596
Theatrical Wig Construction and Styling
Course Syllabus
2015

Instructor: Peter Herman
Class Time: Tuesday, Thursday 3:30-5:30
Phone number: 594-6316
Office: DA 4D
Office Hours: M/W. 10:00am - 11:00 am
Email: pkherman@mail.sdsu.edu

Course Objectives:
1). To develop skills and techniques to be a wig ventilator (maker).
2). To become proficient in wig/hair terms and technology.
3). To gain knowledge of period hairstyles and learn how to create them.
4). To learn the construction and application of facial hair.
5). To develop skills in the application, construction, and styling of wigs and hairpieces.

Attendance:
This course relies heavily on you attendance and participation in the classroom. Since this is a hands on course, new information and techniques will be introduced in each class period. Your presence for each class is expected, and required. Lectures and demonstrations are not repeated. You are also responsible for having all necessary makeup, supplies, charts, and research needed for each class. Repeated lack of proper materials for class projects will equal an absence. If three absences are accumulated your grade will be dropped one (1) letter grade. Promptness and preparedness for class is expected. Three tardies will equal one absence. Absences may be excused for the following reasons only: Medical (with proper documentation), Death in the family (with proper documentation), Military obligation (with proper documentation), Prior arrangements (with the discretion of the instructor). You are responsible for obtaining and making up all information and assignments during an absence.
Readings will come from the following:

**Supplemental reading:**


*Stage Makeup Tenth Edition*, Richard Corson, James Glavan, Beverly Gore Norcroos, Allyn and Bacon,


**Evaluation and Grading:**

You will be graded on the following things:

2 completed moustaches

3 finished sets/stylings of wig styles discussed in class and displaying them during the December costume shop open house

1 Final project which will incorporate one or more of the following
   a. Construction
   b. Styling
   c. Design

Make-up/hair morgues:

1 Hair morgue project

**Inspiration morgue**- Every Tuesday at the end of the class your morgue should be turned in with 5 pictures and notations of hair or faces that appeal to you.
Late Work:

Although I don’t appreciate late work/projects, you can hand them in up to one week (seven calendar days) after they are due for the grade they were worth. After 1 week, they will count for 0 (zero) points. Remember, some points are better than no points.

Peter’s guide to fine whines:
How to communicate with Peter – If you want the following response, please phrase your questions this way:

Response: All these ideas look great, I think “A” is a better choice, but “B” might be more cost effective.
Question: I did these different samples, which idea do you like?

Response: Oh, it’s not that difficult, you are actually very close. If you like, I could fix it for you.
Question: I tried doing it this way, and I also tried doing it like they show in the book, but it still doesn’t look right.

Response: Have you looked at the book? What does it say in your notes?
Question: What am I supposed to do?

Response: Have you scheduled an appointment to meet me during my office hours?
Question: I thought I was doing better in class. I am confused at what we are doing in class.

Extra Credit will be given for:

Attendance to makeup and hair workshops

Participation outside the classroom in a university or professional production on the wig or makeup crew/team.

EXTRA CREDIT IS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR, AS WELL AS AMOUNT AWARDED.
**Class Policies**  
(Adopted from Holly Poe-Durbin)

1. **The Fanny Factor**: As the immortal Woody Allen said, “99% of success is just showing up, and its astounding how many people can’t manage that.” You must be in this class to succeed. An attendance sheet will be passed around in each class period. If you arrive late, it is your responsibility to sign the sheet to prove that you graced us with your charming presence (or at least your fanny did.)

2. **The Cocktail Hour Rule**: Unfortunately this class was schedule during the acceptable cocktail hours; however the whine that most of you choose to serve to me is not acceptable. Yes, I am a bit of a wine snob, so no whining during class. Yes it grates on me like nails on a chalkboard. Don’t lead me to drink during class, just so I can put up with your whining, the university looks unfavorably upon drunk educators.

3. **Answering Service for Cell Phones**: If your cell phone rings in class, you run a good chance that Peter will answer it, and can’t be responsible for what he might say to Aunt Edna who wants a ride to church. Don’t want to end up in family counseling? Turn off your phone.

5. **Plan your Schedule Rule**: This class will require work outside of class. Working in entertainment requires the ability to juggle many tasks, this class is no exception. As with many things in our profession, you must plan your schedule and have or learn the discipline to stick to it. In the case of Unavoidable Conflict, see me to arrange something ahead of time. Everything in Life is negotiable, but only IF you negotiate well ahead of time. After the fact is too late, you just look like a loser and no one will believe you. If I start to suspect you are pulling something on me, I will require doctor notes, notes from car mechanics (imagine asking your mechanic for this....) and pleading letters from the vet who just stitched up your cat.

6. **Late Work Policy**: If you are designing/ assisting for a department show (and we know who you are) please consult me for an adjusted due date if necessary.

7. **Department Incomplete Policy**: Missing projects or segments will be graded as an F. If you wish an Incomplete in the course, which will allow you additional time to complete the missing work, you must contact the instructor before the day of the final exam requesting such a grade. If the instructor agrees, you must fill out an Incomplete Form, which specifies what must be done to complete the grade. Consult the catalogue carefully for current procedures and time limits. **Students must have completed half (50% of the total possible points) of the course work to qualify for an Incomplete.**
8. **Share** what you know: do you have a special knowledge? We want to know what you know!

9. Before entering this class, please **Wipe the Art School Sneer** off your face. The one thing that sets artists apart all over the world is their ability to **really see** when others are merely looking.

It is a child-like ability (but not child-ish) to look at even the most mundane item as if for the very first time and ask questions. Why do people do that, say that, look like that, wear that, sit in chairs like that, do that to their hair, design tools that do that? What does this tell us about ourselves?

For whatever reason, art students particularly have adopted a pained, bored and passive approach to learning, as if they already know everything. This approach will ultimately limit you, your imagination and your ability to create a life and a body of work.

Please let the only scowls and scorns, raised eyebrows, or brooding looks on your face be accomplished through skilled makeup application, not because your face made that conscious or unconscious distortion.

---

**Inspiration notebook:**
This is a morgue of pictures that provide creativity, thought, ideas, desires, musings, aspirations, what to do, what not to do... It’s a simple, personal book of pictures you will use in your career as a way of sparking inspiration towards each project you do.

a. Make sure pictures are cut out of magazine, or at least make it look like you didn’t chew the picture out of a magazine.

b. **Label the pictures with what your eye was drawn to:** “Nice lips”, “Great Hair”, “Nice colors”, “Interesting wounds”, “Bad Eyeshadow”, etc...

c. Mount the pictures in/on something. Putting them in a sketch pad or binder is suggested. They can be taped or glued down, or stored in clear plastic sheets. Storing them in a file folder is not suggested.

d. Look for inspiration in the oddest of places. Save everything that catches your eye or sparks a thought in your mind.
Supplies:

To be brought with you every day to class

A 3 ring binder  I amazingly will hand you many pieces of paper chock full of information. You also will find yourself photocopying many pieces of information that will make you a more talented make-up artist. You will discover that you want to keep all of this information in one neat resource collection for future reference.

Many sheets of clean paper on which notes can be transcribed. Quite amazingly you will discover I will have many informative things to say that you will want to write down for future reference. I have found that you only retain 15% of what I say 24 hours later. You will have a better average of remembering facts later if you actually write them down.

A writing implement.  You will need something to write my words of wisdom or general ramblings down with. A pencil or pen are favored for this. A lip pencil or eyebrow/eyeliner pencil are really for marking on the face not on paper. Taking notes on your or your neighbor’s face is not suggested.
**Wig making/styling kit should include:**

- Kryolan wig making kit #42424
- Ventilating needle holder with a ventilating needle in either #0 or #1
- Sewing needle
- Clear thread
- Tape measure
- Black sharpie
- Wig clamp
- Barber's shears
- Thinning shears
- Rat tail comb
- Rat tail brush
- Vent brush
- Spray bottle for water
- Tack hammer
- Needle nose pliers
- Roll of 1” clear tape
- Roll of 1” black/blue masking tape
- Hair pins, bobby pins, clips
- Wig cap
- Comb

**Additional supplies may be required for the successful completion of your hairstyles.**