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

Course Syllabus: 54-534 | 932
Theatrical Footwear

CLASS MEETINGS: Tuesdays, 9:05 am-11:50 am

ROOM: PCA 308 Costume Studio

INSTRUCTOR: Brian Russman (he/him)

E-MAIL: brianr@andrew.cmu.edu

OFFICE: PCA 325

PHONE: (917) 225-1110

OFFICE HOURS: Fridays 1:30-3:30 *or*
By Appointment

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY STANDARDS:

As a condition of enrollment in the College of Fine Arts, we expect you to positively contribute to the community in order to fully engage in the intellectual life at CFA. Classrooms, studios, rehearsal and performance spaces, exhibition venues, and off-campus curricular destinations are safe spaces for expression and self-identification. Students are expected to treat *everyone* with respect, regardless of race, country of origin, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, age, religion, political affiliation, or marital status. Lack of respect and harassment includes offensive comments related to any protected personal characteristic, deliberate intimidation, sustained disruption or speech, inappropriate physical contact, and unwelcome sexual attention. Violations of this agreement are subject to a response to be determined by the Heads of School and Associate Deans.

It is *my own intent* that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture.

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

This introductory course serves to instruct the student in the language, materials and processes of designing, creating and adapting footwear for the stage. Attention will also be given to proper leather care and maintenance and finishing.

REQUIRED SUPPLIES:

Most general supplies will be provided for this class. Additional supplies will be discussed with instructor as necessary.

ATTENDANCE:

Due to the laboratory nature of this course attendance is mandatory. One *unexcused* absence will reduce the course grade by one (1) letter grade. Being tardy (late by more than 10 minutes) will not be accepted. Three tardy arrivals will constitute one (1) class absence.

Students are responsible for material missed due to absence.

PROJECTS:

PROJECT #1: Paint / Polish / Rubber 30 Points

PROJECT #2: Custom Sandal 30 Points

NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT DISCUSSION PRIOR TO DUE DATE!

- An extension must be requested at least 24 hours in advance.
- When an extension is granted, said extension is assumed to mean one calendar week unless additional arrangements have been made.

GRADING:

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

Each project will be evaluated on a 30-point system for a semester total of 60 points. The 30 project points are broken down as follows:

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) work of a standard not meeting minimum requirements, poor attitude, tardiness, absence, disregard to safety and shop protocols, undisciplined or unprofessional behavior, game play or sabotage of work, or frequent required reinforcement of concepts or procedures.

****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.

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.

POINTS:

48 – 60
42 – 47
36 – 41
30 – 35
29 and Below

GRADE:

A
B
C
D
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.

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 to 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 such as anxiety or depression, we strongly encourage you to seek supports.

CMU CaPS: 412-268-2922

UPMC resolve Crisis Network: 888-796-8226

If the situation is life threatening, call the police:

On campus: CMU Police: 412-268-232

Off Campus: 911

COURSE MEETINGS:

August 30, 2022:

Course Introduction | Painting, Polishing, Rubbering
ASSIGN PROJECT #1: Paint / Polish / Rubber

September 6, 2022:

Leather Handling | Simple Self-Made Shoes | Measuring the Foot
ASSIGN PROJECT #2: Custom Sandal

September 13, 2022:

WORK DAY (Project #1)

September 20, 2022:

Custom Made Footwear (Footwear Vocabulary, Needs, Design)
PROJECT #1 DUE: Beginning of Class

September 27, 2022:

WORK DAY (Project #2)

October 4, 2022:

Footwear History Highlights | Dyeing Satin Shoes

October 11, 2022:

Existing Shoe Embellishment and Customization

- Bows and Buckles
- Tongues
- Boot tops
- Spats, Gaiters, Skate Covers

Comfort accommodations (shoe pads) | Quick Change Capabilities
PROJECT #2 DUE: Beginning of Class