

**Course ID: THTR 499 Costume Crafts: Armor**  
**Units: 2**  
**Term—Day—Time: Spring Tuesdays, 2-4:50**

**Location:** PED 114E and 114 F  
**Instructor:** Timo Elliott  
**Office:** By Appointment  
**Office Hours:** By Appointment  
**Contact Info:** [te51603@usc.edu](mailto:te51603@usc.edu) / (801)719-4181  
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### **Course Description**

Often overlooked but ever present, costume crafts encompass all the items people wear that are not exclusively made from fabric. These include hats, shoes, and jewelry, as well as more exotic items such as armor. This course will provide an overview of costume crafts construction techniques as they relate to the more structured of crafts. Jewelry, shoe, and armor construction techniques will all be explored in this course, with an emphasis on the shared methods and materials used between projects. Students will work with a variety of materials including thermoplastics, urethane resin, chainmail, and leather. By the end of the course, students will have an overarching view of costume crafts construction techniques which they can apply to future craft related projects in a variety of contexts, be it for film, stage, or even cosplay.

### **Learning Objectives**

- Students will know how to make patterns for non standard or irregularly shaped clothing items, such as shoes or armor.
- Students will gain a working familiarity with a variety of costuming materials. These include:
  - Leather
  - Thermoplastics, including L200 and worbla
  - Urethane resin casting
- Students will have a working knowledge of common decorative leatherworking techniques.
- Students will have a working knowledge of craft and resin finishes.

**Prerequisite(s):** n/a

**Co-Requisite(s):** n/a

**Concurrent Enrollment:** n/a

**Recommended Preparation:** THTR 231 Costume Construction or similar sewing experience

### **Course Notes**

Communication will be done primarily through email. Instruction will be given primarily through in class demos.

### **Required Readings and Supplementary Materials**

This is a project based class. The materials listed below should be considered the minimum supplies to complete the course. This list will be supplemented on an individual basis dependent on each student's submitted designs. An overview of required materials will be given at the start of the course, including where to acquire materials and guidelines for proper material selection. The applicable materials will be reviewed at the start of each project. Students are not expected to purchase any materials until after

classes have started. Additionally, students should coordinate buying many of these materials in groups, as they are sold at a larger minimum volume than any single student requires.

Required materials include:

- A set of jewelers pliers including at least a set of needle nose and bent nose pliers. These are easily attainable online. Examples of appropriate tools will be given in the first class.  
[https://www.amazon.com/Jewelry-Cutters-Wrapping-Earring-Supplies/dp/B08LL5MFSS/ref=zg\\_bs\\_g\\_8090800011\\_sccl\\_2/133-3418702-7903104?th=1](https://www.amazon.com/Jewelry-Cutters-Wrapping-Earring-Supplies/dp/B08LL5MFSS/ref=zg_bs_g_8090800011_sccl_2/133-3418702-7903104?th=1)
- Spray adhesive (Super 77) - Optional depending on submitted designs, available in the bookstore
- Sandpaper from 60 to 220 grit - Available at the bookstore or any hardware store
- Spray paint - Dependent on submitted designs, available at hardware stores
- Sulfur free modeling clay - available online or at most craft stores  
[https://bjbmaterials.com/plastalina-modeling-clay/#:~:text=1%20pound%20\(453g\)%20block%20of,be%20re%2Dused%20many%20times.](https://bjbmaterials.com/plastalina-modeling-clay/#:~:text=1%20pound%20(453g)%20block%20of,be%20re%2Dused%20many%20times.)
- Exacto knives - available at the bookstore, any craft stores or online
- Utility knife - available at the bookstore, any hardware store or online

### Description and Assessment of Assignments

Assignments will be divided into two types: in class and out of class projects. In class projects will be introduced in class and either completed with supervision during that class period or will be due at the beginning of the next class period if they require outside classwork. "In Class" projects will serve as samples of skills required to complete larger out of class projects and may include integral steps in completing said out of class projects. In class projects will be used in lieu of participation points.

Out of class projects will require more than one class period to complete and will be graded both on the initial design and the finished craft. Out of class projects include:

- Worbla Armor - A piece of worbla armor, this project will introduce students to thermoplastics and their finishes as well as common tricks and techniques for working with the material.
- L200 Armor - A piece of closed cell foam armor, this project will introduce students to working with closed cell foam and how to finish it, as well as common tricks and techniques for working with the material.
- Pendant necklace - A custom pendant necklace, this project will serve as the culmination of the jewelry section and will require the students to design, cast, and surface finish a custom pendant, as well as attach it to a chain to become a finished accessory.
- Turn Shoes - A pair of simple custom fit leather shoes. This project will teach students about patterning for irregular shapes, as well as how to manipulate leather for forming convex shapes. Students will also learn methods for leather cutting, glueing, and stitching, as well as several common leather decorative methods. This project will serve as the course final.

As there is a design element in all out of class projects, the minimum required features of each project will be given with the in class project description. If a student goes above these requirements, such as including extra embellishing techniques in the finished project, they may be awarded extra credit points for the project.

### Grading Breakdown

Assessment Tool (assignments)	Points	% of Grade
Worbla Armor	50	10
Midterm Project: Pendant Necklace	50	10
L200 Armor	50	10
Final Project Turn Shoes	100	20
In Class projects:	180	36
Midterm Exam	35	7
Final Exam	35	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100</b>

## Grading Scale

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale:

Letter grade	Corresponding numerical point range
A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

## Assignment Submission Policy

Projects are to be submitted in person at the beginning of the class when they are due. Though due dates are listed on the calendar, they may be adjusted slightly to fit with the needs of the class. Any changes will be announced in class. Late projects may be submitted in person at the start of the next class or by arrangement. Each day a project is late will result in a 10% deduction of total points possible for the project, ie, if a project is worth 100 point, at one day late the highest possible score the project can be given is 90 points. After two days that same project can only achieve 80 out of 100 points, etc.

## Grading Timeline

Grades will be given within one week of the project submission.

## Attendance

Attendance is not mandatory, however missing class will affect your ability to complete projects, as the tools and spaces required to do so will largely be available during class time. Additionally missing any in class projects will result in the forfeiture of all points for the missed project. If you will be missing class reach out to me ahead of time and we can potentially coordinate a makeup time for any in class projects you may miss.

## Classroom norms

As a crafting class, students should dress appropriately for working with messy materials such as silicone rubber and urethane resin. Project specific PPE will be addressed at the start of each project.

## Course Schedule

Since many of the projects for this course include extensive drying time between steps, this schedule will be adjusted slightly to accomodate the actual flow of class projects. Changes will be announced in class.

**Table 3 Course schedule**

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings/Preparation	Deliverables
<b>Week 1</b>	Class Intro: What Are Crafts? Syllabus review Introduction to worbla	Order supplies	

<b>Week 2</b>	Patterning for armor.		Worbla Armor design due  In class: patterning for rigid projects
<b>Week 3</b>	Worbla finishes		In class: Worbla finishes
<b>Week 4</b>	Introduction to leatherworking for straps, belts, and buckles.		In class: Rivets
<b>Week 5</b>	Intro to Jewelry construction. Mold making safety protocol. Silicon mold making and urethan resin casting instruction.	Bring a small object with a flat side to cast.  Bring a small object with no flat sides to cast.	Worbla Armor due  In Class project: Mold Making
<b>Week 6</b>	Sculpting for casting. Chains and fasteners.		Jewelry project design due  In Class: Chain mail
<b>Week 7</b>	Making molds for pendant necklace.		Pendant sculpt due  Chain mail sample due
<b>Week 8</b>	Jewelry construction finishes.		In Class: Resin Finishes
<b>Week 9</b>	Midterm Exam  Intro to L200/EVA		Midterm: Pendant Necklace due  Midterm Exam
<b>Week 10</b>	Patterning L200, construction begins		L200 armor design due
<b>Week 11</b>	Metal working Demo		
<b>Week 12</b>	L200 Construction in Class Intro to foam clay.		In class: L200 finishes
<b>Week 13</b>	Intro to Leatherworking. Turn shoe construction begins. Tape Patternmaking		L200 Armor Project Due  In class: The Tape Method
<b>Week 14</b>	Turn shoe construction continues.		Turn shoe design due  In class: Leather stitching and tooling
<b>Week 15</b>	Turn shoe construction continues. Dance rubber demo.		

FINAL			<p>Final project: Turn shoes due</p> <p>Final Exam</p> <p>Refer to the final exam schedule in the <i>USC Schedule of Classes</i> at <a href="http://classes.usc.edu">classes.usc.edu</a>.</p>
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### Course Content Distribution and Synchronous Session Recordings Policies

USC has policies that prohibit recording and distribution of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment.

Recording a university class without the express permission of the instructor and announcement to the class, or unless conducted pursuant to an Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) accommodation. Recording can inhibit free discussion in the future, and thus infringe on the academic freedom of other students as well as the instructor. (Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook, page 13).

Distribution or use of notes, recordings, exams, or other intellectual property, based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study. This includes but is not limited to providing materials for distribution by services publishing course materials. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or in any way had been displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the internet, or via any other media. (Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook, page 13).

### SDA PRODUCTIONS, ISPS, AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

SDA productions, ISPs and Extracurricular Activities\* will not excuse you from any class work. There will be no exceptions made for absences in class, missed or delayed assignments, homework or lack of class participation resulting from your involvement in any of the above. Your grade will reflect your work in this class, independent from work in any other class or activity.

\*Activities that have been officially sanctioned by the larger university (such as marching band, song girls, or varsity sports) are exempt. You must submit official documentation to your professor regarding your participation in an event prior to your absence.

### Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

#### Academic Integrity:

The University of Southern California is foremost a learning community committed to fostering successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Academic misconduct is in contrast to the university's mission to educate students through a broad array of first-rank academic, professional, and extracurricular programs and includes any act of dishonesty in the submission of academic work (either in draft or final form).

This course will follow the expectations for academic integrity as stated in the USC Student Handbook. All students are expected to submit assignments that are original work and prepared specifically for the course/section in this academic term. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s). Students suspected of engaging in academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Other violations of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see the [student handbook](#) or the [Office of Academic Integrity's website](#), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

#### **Students and Disability Accommodations:**

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. [The Office of Student Accessibility Services \(OSAS\)](#) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at [osas.usc.edu](https://osas.usc.edu). You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at [osasfrontdesk@usc.edu](mailto:osasfrontdesk@usc.edu).

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#### **Equity, Diversity & Inclusion + Intimacy in Theater Consent Culture Statement:**

Through our pluralistic approach of diverse pedagogies, methodologies, ideologies, and modalities of artistic expression, we invite(engage) and challenge students to expand their breadth and depth of knowledge, complexity, and range of the human experience. Even though we nurture, guide, and challenge our students to embrace the unknown or unfamiliar and step outside of their comfort zones through storytelling/art, we aim to practice effective strategies and offer tools to students mindful of their physical, psychological, social, and emotional wellbeing. In alignment with professional and industry standards, we will integrate core principles and techniques of Intimacy in Theater and Building Cultures of Affirmative Consent. This will provide agency, offer resources and support to the teachers, students, directors, and staff to establish healthy boundaries of consent when working on material that is physically, intimately, or emotionally charged content in both the classroom and production.

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#### **SDA Student Support & Reporting Form:**

To facilitate a supportive environment of accountability, SDA has created an internal system of reporting for students to address issues/concerns and to offer feedback or suggestions for improvement. This mechanism provides a pathway for reporting and offering feedback without fear of retaliation or judgment. Any submission filed through this form will be reviewed and processed accordingly through SDA Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

To file a report, please visit: <https://bit.ly/SDAstudentreporting>

#### **Support Systems:**

[Counseling and Mental Health](#) - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

[988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) - 988 for both calls and text messages – 24/7 on call

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. The new, shorter phone number makes it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services (though the previous 1 (800) 273-8255 number will continue to function indefinitely) and represents a continued commitment to those in crisis.

*Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP)* - (213) 740-9355(WELL) – 24/7 on call  
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender- and power-based harm (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking).

*Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX (EEO-TIX)* - (213) 740-5086  
Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

*Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment* - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298  
Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

*The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS)* - (213) 740-0776  
OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

*USC Campus Support and Intervention* - (213) 740-0411  
Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

*Diversity, Equity and Inclusion* - (213) 740-2101  
Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

*USC Emergency* - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call  
Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

*USC Department of Public Safety* - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call  
Non-emergency assistance or information.

*Office of the Ombuds* - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)  
A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

*Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice* - (323) 442-2850 or [otfp@med.usc.edu](mailto:otfp@med.usc.edu)  
Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.