

Las Positas College  
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**Course Outline for THEA 1B**  
**THEORY/PRACTICE OF ACTING II**  
**Effective: Spring 2016**

**I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

THEA 1B — THEORY/PRACTICE OF ACTING II — 3.00 units

Continued exploration of the theory and practice of acting, focusing on more complex characterization and character analysis. Introduction to theatrical styles and period acting with emphasis on monologues and scenes.

3.00 Units Lecture

**Prerequisite**

THEA 1A - Theory/Practice of Acting I  
 with a minimum grade of C

**Grading Methods:**

Letter Grade

**Discipline:**

**Family:** Theater Studio

	<b>MIN</b>
<b>Lecture Hours:</b>	54.00
<b>Total Hours:</b>	54.00

**II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1**

**III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:**

**Before entering the course a student should be able to:**

A. THEA1A

**IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:**

**Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

- A. Have widened his/her acting range through study, technique work and performances in various acting styles; Demonstrate an understanding of the various techniques of acting in performance. Develop an expanded range and flexibility as an actor.
- B. Have broadened his/her acting range by playing a character(s) somehow different from their own personality;
- C. Be able to analyze a character, scene and play as part of the actor's preparation; Demonstrate the ability to create a character using textual analysis.
- D. Be able to work individually and with a partner in the process of rehearsing and performing an acting scene;
- E. Be able to effectively perform a scene and monologue in the particular style(s) focused on in the course; Apply elements of effective acting techniques as a personal standard.
- F. Be able to explain the uniqueness in performing in the particular acting styles(s) focused on in the course; Evaluation of acting technique in a live performance.
- G. Be able to critically evaluate the acting performances of other students and other actors. Evaluate scene work developed from published plays

**V. CONTENT:**

- A. Review of the basics of acting studied in Theater Arts 1A (beats of action, subtext, playing objectives, listening/reacting, etc.)
- B. Exercises (basic acting technique exercises and exercises specific to the particular styles studied)
  1. Application of theories and methods of acting.
  2. Craft and methods for performance.
  3. Textual analysis for creating a role.
  4. Practical approaches to creating the physical life of a character.
  5. Practical application of theatre terminology and vocabulary.
  6. Attendance of a live performance.
- C. An introduction to period acting and acting styles e.g. Greek, Roman, Elizabethan, Commedia Del 'Arte, Comedy of Manners, Asian, Ritualistic, Theater of the Absurd, Television and Film, etc.
- D. Vocal techniques for the particular acting styles being studied
- E. Movement techniques for the particular acting styles studied
- F. Characterization
  1. Physical life
  2. Vocal life

3. Inner life
- G. Scene/monologue Preparation
  1. Character scene and play analysis
  2. Memorization of lines
  3. Rehearsals with partner in and outside of class
  4. Blocking
- H. Scene Presentation
  1. Performing the scene before the class and instructor
  2. Feedback and coaching from instructor and class members
  3. Second presentation of scene after feedback

#### VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. Student participation in warm up exercises and acting technique work
- B. Lectures, demonstrations and discussions on characterization and on the styles of acting to be studied
- C. In-class and outside-of-class rehearsal of scenes and monologues, with as much coaching and guidance from the instructor as possible
- D. Video feedback through the taping of scenes and monologues
- E. Reading and analyzing the plays from which scenes are taken
- F. Reading from textbooks or handouts
- G. Prepared performances of scenes and monologues. Evaluation and critique of this performance work by instructor and class members

#### VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Presenting a rehearsed scene in class, with lines memorized and blocking created, using acting techniques and principles learned in class
- B. "Scoring" of the Shakespearean scene to be performed. i.e. Thinking through and writing down on the rehearsal script, the beats of action, objectives, feelings and inner monologue of the character as the scene progresses.
- C. Writing a paraphrase in contemporary language of what the character is saying.
- D. Live performance review of a play in a performed or studied style in the class

#### VIII. EVALUATION:

##### A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Quizzes
3. Papers
4. Class Participation
5. Other:
  - a. Grading of prepared scenes and monologues, based on the objective quality of the work, the discipline and seriousness demonstrated in rehearsals, and the amount of improvement and growth shown by the student.
  - b. Grading of written play/character analyses
  - c. Grading of test or quizzes
  - d. Judgement of the participation by the student in technique work and discussions
  - e. Attendance

##### B. **Frequency**

- 4 Performances per semester
- 1 Final Exam
- 4 Written Components (1 per performance to include scoring and reflection)
- 1 Live performance review

#### IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Cohen, Robert. *Style for Actors: A Handbook for Moving Beyond Realism*. 2nd ed., Routledge, 2010.
2. Stilson, Kenneth, Larry Clark, and Charles McGraw. *Acting is Believing*. 12th ed., Cengage Learning, 2014.
3. Rolfe, Bari. *Movement for Period Plays*. 1st ed., Charlemagne Press, 2013.
4. Ley, Graham. *Acting Greek Tragedy*. 1 ed., University of Exeter Press, 2015.
5. Hartley, Andrew. *Shakespeare on the University Stage*. 1st ed., Cambridge University Press, 2014.
6. Scripts of the plays or films from which the acting scenes are taken

#### X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: