

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for THEA 40
INTRO TO TECHNICAL THEATRE
Effective: Spring 2017

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

THEA 40 — INTRO TO TECHNICAL THEATRE — 2.00 units

Introduction to the technical aspects of theatrical production, including theater architecture and scenic design, set construction and painting, drafting and rendering, production organization, lighting and sound design.

1.00 Units Lecture 1.00 Units Lab

Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

Discipline:

Family: Theater Design

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	18.00
Lab Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	72.00

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

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

- A. Explain how the architecture and technical systems of a theater work;
- B. Describe the styles and explain the history of theatrical scenic design;
- C. Construct basic stage scenery;
- D. Mix and apply paint using scenic art methods;
- E. Create renderings and scale drawings to express their creative ideas;
- F. Demonstrate an understanding of the basics of theater lighting, including color and mixing;
- G. Demonstrate an understanding of the basics of a theater sound systems;
- H. Demonstrate an understanding of the basics of theater audio/visual systems;
- I. Cooperate effectively as a member of a production and project team;
- J. Conceptualize, plan, create and successfully present a portfolio project;
- K. Describe the wide variety of career opportunities in technical theater and related fields.

V. CONTENT:

- A. How a theater works
 - 1. Architecture
 - 2. Machinery
 - 3. Electronics
 - 4. Materials
- B. Scenic Design
 - 1. History – Ancient Greece to present
 - 2. Styles – Western, Asian, Realism, Expressionism, Impressionism, Fragmentation, Constructivism
 - 3. Elements
- C. Stage scenery – design and construction
 - 1. Layout and planning
 - 2. Materials and cut lists
 - 3. Construction management and techniques
 - 4. Handling (Newton's three laws)
 - 5. Storage
- D. Scenic Painting
 - 1. Care, handling and storage of paint and tools
 - 2. Color mixing
 - 3. Scenic painting techniques
- E. Drawing
 - 1. Sketching and rendering
 - 2. Using a scale
 - 3. Drafting

4. Pattern and stencil making
5. Macro and full-scale
- F. Theater Lighting
 1. Physics and sources of light
 2. System elements and functions
 3. Control and dimming systems
 4. Lighting instruments
 5. Location/direction of instruments
 6. Lighting color
 7. Moving lights
 8. Hanging and cabling instruments
 9. Lighting safety
- G. Theater sound
 1. Physics of sound
 2. System design and components
 3. Audio sources and media
 4. Control and manipulation
 5. Dramatic effect
 6. Sound as part of a production
- H. A/V Systems and components
 1. Slide and video projectors
 2. Video cameras and monitors
 3. Digital and film cameras
 4. Emerging technology
- I. Hand and power tools
 1. Proper use, care and maintenance
 2. Safety
 3. Storage
- J. Production Teamwork
 1. Positions attitude
 2. Taking Directions
 3. Support of others
- K. Careers in technical theater
 1. Live theater, opera, dance, concerts
 2. Film, TV, video, multi-media
 3. Theme parks and Casinos
 4. A/V in business and industry
 5. Education
 6. Community theater

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. Lectures/chalk talks
- B. Group discussions
- C. **Field Trips** - to theaters and scene shops
- D. Team projects in lab periods
- E. Outside readings and written assignments
- F. Hands-on laboratory periods
 1. Class projects
 2. Work on school productions

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Reading assignments in text B. Reading assignments in additional books on reserve in the LRC C. Drawing assignments
 1. Research the play, historic period and setting, and then design and create an elevation design for a Las Positas theater production of a play. D. Research assignments E. Individual portfolio project F. Attendance at local performances G. Working on building projects for LPC production 1. Construct and then paint a 4x8 theatrical flat using specific painting techniques.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Quizzes
3. Projects
4. Class Participation
5. Other:
 - a. Class attendance, attitude and participation
 - b. In-class quizzes
 1. What is a twist lock and how is it used?
 2. Draw a diagram of a lamp and identify the parts.
 - c. Individual portfolio project
 - d. Final exam
 1. What is a gaffer? What is a grip?
 2. What are the primary and secondary colors in light? Draw as a circle chart.

B. **Frequency**

No longer offered

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Carter Paul *Backstage Handbook: An Illustration of Technical Information*. 3rd ed., Broadway Press, 1994.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Basic drawing and drafting materials
- B. Color wheel
- C. Lighting color media fan deck
- D. Appropriate painting clothes, including shoes

