

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for THEA 1A
THEORY/PRACTICE OF ACTING I
Effective: Spring 2016

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

THEA 1A — THEORY/PRACTICE OF ACTING I — 3.00 units

This course prepares a student to apply basic acting theory to performance and develops the skills of interpretation of drama through acting. Special attention is paid to skills for performance: memorization, stage movement, vocal production, and interpretation of text. An introduction to the techniques and theories of acting, explored through improvisation, exercises and scene study. Students should be able to demonstrate the following skills: development of the physical and psychological resources for acting including relaxation, concentration, creativity, believability, and commitment.

3.00 Units Lecture

Strongly Recommended

ENG 1A - Critical Reading and Composition

Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

Discipline:

Family: Theater Studio

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

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

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

Before entering this course, it is strongly recommended that the student should be able to:

A. ENG1A

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

- A. Have acquired an understanding of the basic techniques and principles of acting
- B. Demonstrate basic skills of acting, including physical, vocal, imaginative, analytical, and emotional elements
- C. Have participated in acting improvisations, warm-ups, technique work and scene study
- D. Perform in both scripted and improvisational scenes in front of an audience
- E. Use and apply a basic craft of acting in performance
- F. Work individually and with a partner in the process of rehearsing and performing an acting scene
- G. Analyze a character, scene, and play as part of the actor's preparation
 - 1. Compose a character analysis
 - 2. Analyze dramatic textual components as they pertain to performance
 - 3. Utilize appropriate theatrical terminology and jargon
- H. Critically evaluate the acting performances of other students and other actors
 - 1. Critique a scene from an observer's point of view, identifying the strengths and weaknesses of that presentation

V. CONTENT:

- A. Application of acting methods; theoretical approaches to acting.
 - 1. Concentration and focus
 - 2. Basic vocal and physical technique
 - 3. Principles of stage movement and blocking
 - 4. Opportunities to apply basic craft approaches for acting.
 - 5. Introduction to script analysis
 - 6. Improvisation
 - 7. Basic acting and theatre terminology and vocabulary
 - 8. Performance, evaluation processes and techniques
- B. Exercises
 - 1. Relaxation
 - 2. Body awareness and movement

3. Vocal freedom and technique
4. Development of individual creativity and imagination
5. Development of group/partner awareness and creativity
- C. Acting Theory and Technique
 1. Subtext and inner monologue
 2. Beats of Action
 3. Objectives, tactics, obstacles
 4. Believability and truthfulness
 5. "In the moment" presence
 6. Listening and reacting
 7. Relationships
 8. Concentration and focus
 9. Commitment and energy
 10. Physical life and stage movement
 11. Personalization
 12. Characterization
- D. Scene Preparation
 1. Character, scene and play analysis
 2. Memorization
 3. Rehearsals with partner, in and out of class
 4. Blocking
- E. Scene Presentation
 1. Performing scene before the class and instructor
 2. Feedback and coaching from instructor
 3. Second presentation of scene after feedback

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. Student participation in warm up exercises, improvisations and acting technique work
- B. Lectures, demonstrations and discussions on acting theories and techniques
- C. Reading from textbooks or handouts
- D. Prepared performances of scenes and monologues. Evaluation and critique of this performance work by instructor
- E. Reading and analyzing the plays from which scenes are taken
- F. In-class and outside-of-class rehearsal of scenes and monologues, with as much coaching and guidance by the instructor as possible

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Reading the entire play from which an individual's acting scene is taken, for the purpose of understanding characterization, theme, plot, style, etc.
- B. Writing a play and character analysis based on an outline provided by the instructor.
- C. Presenting a rehearsed scene in class, with lines memorized and blocking created, using acting techniques and principles learned in class
- D. Writing a review of a live theatrical performance, with particular attention given to a critique of the acting.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Quizzes
3. Class Participation
4. Other:
 - a. Grading of prepared scenes and monologues, based on the objective quality of the work and the amount of improvement and growth shown by student - at least 3 times per semester
 - b. Grading of written play and character analyses - at least 3 times per semester
 - c. Grading of tests or quizzes - 1 final exam
 - d. Judgment of participation in class improvisations, discussions and technique work - at least 3 times per semester
 - e. Grades should be assigned and communicated as soon as possible after prepared work is done.
 - f. Participation grade should be made known to student at least once in the middle of the semester, via Blackboard or some other means of communication

B. **Frequency**

Varies per assignment. 1 quiz per semester. 3-6 performances per semester. 2 written essays.

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Barton, Robert. *Acting: On Stage and Off.*, Hartcourt Brace Jovanovich, 2011.
2. Panet, Brigid. *Essential Acting: A Practical Handbook for Actors, Teachers and Directors.* 2nd ed., Routledge, 2015.
3. Flacks, Niki. *Acting With Passion: A Performer's Guide to Emotions on Cue (Performance Books).* First ed., Bloomsbury Methuen Drama, 2015.
4. Playwrights Canada Press, and Jill Lloyd-Jones. *Truth in Play: Drama Strategies for Building Meaningful Performances.* 1st ed., Playwrights Canada Press, 2015.
5. Course Handbook

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Handouts provided by instructor