

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for THEA XX
SHAKESPEARE THROUGH PERFORMANCE
Effective: Spring 2020

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

THEA XX — SHAKESPEARE THROUGH PERFORMANCE — 3.00 units

Study and performance of classical Shakespearean texts (monologues and dialogues), with a focus on the Elizabethan world as it applies to performance. Students will come to understand the works of William Shakespeare through active performance techniques as well as traditional literary analysis.

3.00 Units Lecture

Prerequisite

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

Strongly Recommended

THEA 1B - Theory/Practice of Acting II
with a minimum grade of C

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

- Drama/Theater Arts

	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 the course a student should be able to:

A. THEA1A

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

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

A. THEA1B

1. 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.
2. Have broadened his/her acting range by playing a character(s) somehow different from their own personality;
3. 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.
4. Be able to work individually and with a partner in the process of rehearsing and performing an acting scene;
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Be able to critically evaluate the acting performances of other students and other actors. Evaluate scene work developed from published plays

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

- A. Widen his/her acting range through study, technique work and performances in the texts of William Shakespeare
- B. Develop an expanded range and flexibility as an actor
- C. Analyze a character, scene and play as part of the actor's preparation; Demonstrate the ability to create a character using textual analysis
- D. Work individually and with a partner in the process of rehearsing and performing an acting scene from the works of William Shakespeare
- E. Employ acting physical archetypes and movement technique to create a character from the works of William Shakespeare
- F. Develop an expanded vocal depth and dialect understanding for application in scene and monologue work
- G. Analyze rhetoric within monologue and scene scripts
- H. Identify and perform the 5 types of Shakespearean asides
- I. Research and apply historical understanding of clothing, cultural norms, behavior, and social etiquette in a scene

V. CONTENT:

- A. Review of the basics of acting studied in Theater Arts 1A
- B. Exercises (basic acting technique exercises and exercises specific Shakespeare)
 - 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. An introduction to period acting of William Shakespeare's works.
- C. Vocal techniques for Shakespearean acting, with an emphasis on rhetoric, dialect, and Original Practice
- D. Movement techniques for Shakespearean acting
- E. Characterization
 - 1. Physical life
 - 2. Vocal life
 - 3. Inner life
- F. Scene/monologue Preparation
 - 1. Character scene and play analysis
 - 2. Memorization of lines
 - 3. Rehearsals with partner in and outside of class
 - 4. Blocking
- G. 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. **Audio-visual Activity** - Videos from The Globe , The Folger, and National Theater
- B. **Student Presentations** -
- C. **Directed Study** -
- D. **Guest Lecturers** - In movement, dialect, and stage combat (sword play)
- E. **Lecture** -
- F. **Classroom Activity** -

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 an analysis in contemporary language of what the character is saying.
- D. Student participation in warm up exercises and acting technique work.

VIII. EVALUATION:

Methods/Frequency

- A. Quizzes
 - 2-3 per semester
- B. Class Participation
 - daily
- C. Class Work
 - weekly
- D. Home Work
 - weekly
- E. Class Performance
 - 3 per semester
- F. Final Performance
 - 1 per semester

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Marelj, Jelena, and Michael Witmore. *Shakespearean Character: Language in Performance*. 1st ed., The Arden Shakespeare, 2019.
- 2. Macphee, Wendy. *Secret Meanings in Shakespeare Applied To Stage Performance*. 1st ed., M-Y Books Ltd, 2018.
- 3. Soto-Morettini, Donna. *Mastering the Shakespeare Audition: A Quick Guide to Performance Success*. 1st ed., Methuen Drama, 2016.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: