

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for THEA 31D
DRAMA WORKSHOP - DIRECTING
Effective: Fall 2014

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

THEA 31D — DRAMA WORKSHOP - DIRECTING — 3.00 units

Participation as a director or assistant director of one act plays, original student scripts, or other projects, leading to scheduled performances.

3.00 Units Lab

Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

Discipline:

Family: Theater Workshop

	MIN
Lab Hours:	162.00
Total Hours:	162.00

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. Select an appropriate play for production
- B. Analyze a play script and create a vision and concept for how that script can be expressed in a live theatrical production.
- C. Cast a play with appropriate actors.
- D. Stage and block a theatrical production
- E. Coach actors in terms of all elements of acting including characterization, vocal life, physical life, presence and energy.
- F. Guide the pacing of a play
- G. Lead design elements of a production - set, lighting, props, costumes.
- H. Coordinate all elements of a play production into a unified whole.
- I. Establish a cooperative and creative working relationship student actors and backstage workers

V. CONTENT:

- A. Play selection
- B. Script analysis
- C. Casting
- D. Blocking and staging
- E. Actor coaching
- F. Pacing
- G. Design concept and leadership
- H. Coordination of all elements into a unified whole
 - I. Guidance and instruction by the teacher in all aspects of the process of creating a play
 - J. Evaluation and discussion of the process and production

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. Learning by doing. The directors are leading all aspects of a play's production from casting to performance.
- B. **Classroom Activity -**
- C. **Demonstration -**
- D. **Individualized Instruction -**
- E. **Observation and Demonstration -**
- F. **Student Presentations -**
- G. Meetings and discussions between the instructor and the student directors at every class session dealing with all aspects of the director's job - play selection, casting, rehearsal discipline and etiquette, staging and blocking, actor coaching, pacing and rhythm, technical aspects of the production. Also, dealing with problems that arise.
 - I. **Lecture -**
 - J. Discussions about the show after public performances have occurred
 - K. Observation of student directors working with the student actors
 - M. **Critique -**

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Creating a plan for the blocking of the play. Note suggested blocking in the director's script before the blocking rehearsal.
2. Preparing the director's script for the technical rehearsal, marking all the lighting and sound cues.
3. Writing an evaluation of the process and production after public performances have occurred. eg. What things went especially well? What things would you do differently if you had a chance to direct the show again?

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

1. Class Participation
2. Class Work
3. Home Work
4. Class Performance
5. Final Class Performance
6. Final Public Performance
7. Other:
 - a. Observation of the directors in rehearsals working with the actors
 - b. Written preparations - blocking script, ground plan, technical cue sheet
 - c. Participation in directors' meetings at the end of each class
 - d. Quality of the finished product - the public performance
 - e. Attendance and punctuality

B. **Frequency**

Twice in the semester; at the conclusion of each of the public performances.

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. 1. Scripts of plays to be performed
2. Michael Wainstein "Stage Directing" 2012 Focus Publishers/R Pullins and Co

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: