

Las Positas College  
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**Course Outline for THEA 31C**  
**DRAMA WORKSHOP - TECHNICAL THEATER**  
**Effective: Fall 2019**

**I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

THEA 31C — DRAMA WORKSHOP - TECHNICAL THEATER — 3.00 units

Participation as designer or stage crew in one act plays, original student scripts, or other projects developed in collaboration with students in Theater 31 A and 31B.

2.00 Units Lecture 1.00 Units Lab

**Prerequisite**

THEA 50 - Stagecraft  
with a minimum grade of C  
(May be taken concurrently)

**Strongly Recommended**

THEA 48A - Technical Theater in Production - Beginning  
with a minimum grade of C

**Grading Methods:**

Letter Grade

**Discipline:**

- Drama/Theater Arts

**Family:** Theater Workshop

	<b>MIN</b>
<b>Lecture Hours:</b>	36.00
<b>Expected Outside of Class Hours:</b>	72.00
<b>Lab Hours:</b>	54.00
<b>Total Hours:</b>	162.00

**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. THEA50**

1. Recognize and use backstage and shop terminology, tools, materials and techniques.
2. Organize a basic scenic construction project, including reading plans, selecting materials, selecting tools, and working safely.
3. Analyze scenic production problems; evaluate alternatives and recommend solutions.
4. Work collaboratively with designers, technicians, and other theatre personnel.
5. Recognize crew organization, hang and focus lights, record a sound effect, or set up a microphone.
6. Construct basic stage scenery;
7. Mix and apply paint using scenic art methods;
8. Create renderings and scale drawings to express their creative ideas;
9. Operate a basic theater audio/visual systems;
10. Express an understanding of the basics of theater lighting, including color and mixing through design renderings, practical demonstration of instrument use, and verbal explanation;
11. Cooperate effectively as a member of a production and project team;
12. Conceptualize, plan, create and successfully present a portfolio project;

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

**A. THEA48A**

1. Demonstrate proficiency in the skills required for a technical theatre crew, specifically as they relate to backstage skills, running crew, costume crew, prop management, and general costume management and assistance.
2. Employ basic skills to address the technical demands of a theatrical production, as a member of the backstage and/or

- pre-production crew.
- 3. Execute assignment responsibilities in technical rehearsals, during production run, and strike.
- 4. Work safely and effectively in one or more of the following areas of technical theater:
  - a. Work on a running crew

#### IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

- A. Prepare, design and construct at an advanced level technical elements necessary for production
- B. Thoroughly analyze a play to discover author's intent, historical and sociological background, dramatic action and use of language.

#### V. CONTENT:

- A. Analysis of the play as a whole including the author's intent, historical and sociological background, dramatic action, message, and use of language.

#### VI. LAB CONTENT:

- A. Participation as a designer in the preparation and performance of one act plays or other projects
- B. Design and implement production elements including, but not limited to (students may participate in more than one technical area):
  - 1. scenic
  - 2. costume
  - 3. props
  - 4. lighting or sound

#### VII. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Classroom Activity -**
- B. **Demonstration -**
- C. **Individualized Instruction -**
- D. **Observation and Demonstration -**
- E. **Student Presentations -**
- F. Lecture, discussion and demonstration of various styles and genres of theater
- G. **Lecture -**
- H. Coaching and guidance of student designers through discussions and individual conversations
- I. Learning by doing. Student designers are involved in the entire collaborative process
- J. **Critique -**

#### VIII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Research the author and the historic period of the plays and present findings in an oral presentation to the other cast and crew members.
- B. Create an initial design concept in an area of technical theater relates to the production. Areas may include:
  - 1. Scenic
  - 2. Costume
  - 3. Props
  - 4. Lighting
  - 5. Sound
  - 6. Marketing/Publicity
- C. Work collaboratively with other crew and designers to execute concepts. Assignments may include, but are not limited to:
  - 1. Constructing and painting scenery
  - 2. Renting, pulling, or buying costumes for production
  - 3. Creating or renting props
  - 4. Researching and editing sound design and elements
  - 5. Hanging and focusing lights
  - 6. Working as a running crew

#### IX. EVALUATION:

##### **Methods/Frequency**

- A. Oral Presentation
  - 1x per semester
- B. Projects
  - as needed by production
- C. Class Participation
  - weekly
- D. Class Work
  - weekly
- E. Lab Activities
  - weekly
- F. Final Public Performance
  - 1x per semester
- G. Other
  - 1. Grading of participation in the process of creating the student projects
    - a. Spirit and discipline
    - b. Quality of work
    - c. Amount of improvement
    - d. Ensemble support and cooperation
    - e. Ability at creating specific technical elements
  - 2. Attendance

#### X. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Smith, Phil. *Making Site-Specific Theatre and Performance: A Handbook*. 1st ed., Palgrave, 2019.
- 2. Campbell, Drew. *Technical Theater for Nontechnical People*. 3rd ed., Allworth Press, 2016.
- 3. Kaluta, John. *The Perfect Stage Crew: The Complete Technical Guide for High School, College, and Community Theater*. 3rd ed., Allworth Press, 2016.
- 4. Play scripts of shows chosen to be performed

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

