

Las Positas College
3000 Campus Hill Drive
Livermore, CA 94551-7650
(925) 424-1000
(925) 443-0742 (Fax)

Course Outline for THEA 10

INTRODUCTION TO DRAMATIC ARTS

Effective: Fall 2004

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

THEA 10 — INTRODUCTION TO DRAMATIC ARTS — 3.00 units

The dramatic arts, including the history, values and theatrical techniques that have shaped them.

3.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Discipline:

	<u>MIN</u>
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:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

- A. Demonstrate and communicate an appreciation for and excitement about live theater;
- B. Explain the unique nature of theater in contrast to other art forms;
- C. Describe various important eras of theater history in terms of their theater architecture, plays, writers, styles and importance;
- D. Describe the contributions of the various people who create dramatic art;
- E. List and explain the various dimensions of Aristotle's six elements of drama;
- F. Differentiate between the various styles and forms of live theater;
- G. Describe the important forms of live theater in America today;
- H. Effectively critique a theatrical production, making reference to all the various elements of dramatic art and distinguishing between the play/musical as written and as presented/performed;
- I. Discuss ethical and social questions related to theater.

V. CONTENT:

- A. Backgrounds and history of Theater
 1. Drama as ritual and expression of community
 2. Greek and Roman Theater
 3. Medieval Theater
 4. Asian Theater
 - a. India
 - b. China
 - c. Japan
 5. Renaissance Theater
 6. Restoration Theater
 7. Romanticism and Melodrama
 8. Realism
 9. Departures from Realism
 - a. Expressionism
 - b. Absurdism
 - c. Epic Theater
 - d. Other styles
 10. Diversity and eclecticism
 - a. African-American Theater
 - b. Asian-American Theater
 - c. Latino Theater
 - d. Gay/Lesbian Theater
 - e. Political Theater
 - f. Post Modernism
 - g. Performance Art
 - h. Musical Theater
- B. Creators of Dramatic Art: Study of the process and contribution of the following people in the creation of live theater:
 1. Writers and composers
 2. Actors
 3. Directors and producers

4. Designers
 - a. Set and lighting
 - b. Properties and furniture
 - c. Costumes and make up
 - d. Publicity people
- C. Elements of Dramatic Art: As reference point, Aristotle's six elements of drama:
 1. Plot/Action
 2. Character
 3. Language/
 4. Diction
 5. Thought/
 6. Theme
 7. Spectacle
 8. Music
- D. Styles of Dramatic Art
 1. Live theater in contrast to film
 2. Styles of live theater
 - a. Realism
 - b. Naturalism
 - c. Expressionism
 - d. Ritualistic Theater
 - e. Theater of the Absurd
 - f. Epic Theater
 - g. Musical Theater
 3. Forms of drama
 - a. Tragedy
 - b. Comedy
 - c. Melodrama
 - d. Farce
 - e. Tragi-Comedy
 - f. Other forms
- E. Structure of Dramatic Writing
 1. Climactic ploy structure
 2. Episodic plot structure
 3. Combinations of climactic and episodic
- F. Types of Theatrical Presentation
 1. Proscenium stages
 2. Thrust stages
 3. Arena stages
 4. Other variations of stages
- G. Theater Criticism
 1. Developing evaluative judgments for theatrical works.
 2. Writing reviews of theatrical productions.
- H. Theater and Issues: Theater and its relation to and role in a culture:
 1. Social and political concerns
 2. Ethical issues
 3. Aesthetic questions

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** -
- B. **Demonstration** -
- C. Group discussions – entire group together and small groups
- D. Viewing/hearing of films, tapes and CDs
- E. Reading of plays
- F. In class “concert” readings of scenes from plays
- G. Seeing/hearing live theater 1. Group field trips 2. Individual attendance a. Las Positas and Chabot College shows b. Shows in the community
- H. Assigned text book readings
- I. Student participation in creative projects

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Take a play of your choosing. In a ten minute oral presentation to the class, describe what choices you would make in designing the following dimensions for a production of it: 1. Set and properties 2. Lighting 3. Costumes 4. Poster B. Write a five to eight page paper in response to the Las Positas College Theater Department's production of The Birds. Make particular reference to all of Aristotle's six elements of drama as found in his Poetics.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Quizzes
3. Papers
4. Projects
5. Group Projects
6. Class Participation
7. Other:
 - a. Test and quizzes:
 1. On text book readings.
 2. On plays read.
 3. On in-class lectures, discussions and viewings.
 - b. Individual and/or group projects
 - c. Participation in class discussions
 - d. Written work
 1. Responses to plays seen
 2. Reports on specific topics
 - e. Attendance

B. **Frequency**

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Cohen, Robert *Theatre, Brief Version*. 5th ed., Mayfield Publishing Company, 0.
2. Kernodle, George, Portia Kernodle, Edward Pixley *Invitation to the Theatre*. 4th ed., Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 0.
3. Play scripts of representative plays, such as Oedipus Rex, The Rope, The Second Shepherd's Play, Hamlet, The School for Scandal, A Doll's House, Death of a Salesman, Waiting for Godot, A Raisin in the Sun, Zoot Suit, Angels in America

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: