

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

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

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

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:

	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. Have participated in acting improvisations, warm-ups, technique work and scene study;
- C. Be able to perform in both scripted and improvisational scenes in front of an audience;
- D. Be able to work individually and with a partner in the process of rehearsing and performing an acting scene;
- E. Be able to analyze a character, scene, and play as part of the actor's preparation;
- F. Be able to critically evaluate the acting performances of other students and other actors.

V. CONTENT:

- A. Improvisations and Theater Games
- 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. Writing a play and character analysis based on an outline provided by the instructor.
- B. Presenting a rehearsed scene in class, with lines memorized and blocking created, using acting techniques and principles learned in class
- C. 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.
 - b. Grading of written play and character analyses.
 - c. Grading of tests or quizzes.
 - d. Judgment of participation in class improvisations, discussions and technique work
 - e. Grades should be assigned and communicated as soon as possible after prepared work is done. Participation grade should be made known to student at least once in the middle of the semester.

B. **Frequency**

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Barton, Robert *Acting: On Stage and Off.*, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 0.
2. Schulman, Michael and Eva Mekler *Contemporary Scenes for Student Actors.*, Penguin Books, 0.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Handouts provided by instructor