

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

**Course Outline for THEA 31D  
DRAMA WORKSHOP - DIRECTING  
Effective: Fall 2019**

**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.

2.00 Units Lecture 1.00 Units Lab

**Prerequisite**

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

THEA 10 - Introduction to Dramatic Arts  
with a minimum grade of B

**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. 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

**B. THEA10**

1. Critically analyze dramatic literature and performances. Describe the contributions of the various people who create dramatic art through essays and in class presentations
2. List and explain the various dimensions of Aristotle's six elements of drama;
3. Differentiate between the various styles and forms of live theater;
4. Identify and examine theatrical components in production.
5. 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;
6. Propose alternative solutions to theatrical production situations.
7. Appreciate viewing theatre as an art form.

#### 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. Design concept and leadership
- B. Guidance and instruction by the teacher in all aspects of the process of creating a play
- C. Evaluation and discussion of the process and production

#### VI. LAB CONTENT:

- A. Script analysis
- B. Casting
- C. Blocking and staging
- D. Actor coaching via rehearsalCoordination of all elements into a unified whole

#### VII. 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** -

#### VIII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Create a plan for the blocking of the play. Note suggested blocking in the director's script before the blocking rehearsal.
- B. Prepare the director's script for the technical rehearsal, marking all the lighting and sound cues.
- C. Write 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?

#### IX. EVALUATION:

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

- A. Class Participation  
weekly
- B. Class Work  
weekly
- C. Home Work  
weekly
- D. Lab Activities  
weekly
- E. Final Class Performance  
1x per semester
- F. Other
  - 1. Observation of the directors in rehearsals working with the actors
  - 2. Written preparations - blocking script, ground plan, technical cue sheet
  - 3. Participation in directors' meetings at the end of each class
  - 4. Quality of the finished product - the public performance
  - 5. Attendance and punctuality

#### X. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. DeKoven, Lenore. *Changing Direction: A Practical Approach to Directing Actors in Film and Theatre*. 2nd ed., Routledge, 2018.
- 2. Sidiropoulou, Avra. *Directions for Directing: Theatre and Method*. 1st ed., Routledge, 2018.
- 3. Williams, Richard. *Directing for the Stage*. 1st ed., Crowood Press, 2018.
- 4. Thinking Like a Director: A Practical Handbook by Michael Bloom. Publication Date 2001
- 5. Scripts of plays to be performed
- 6. Michael Wainstein "Stage Directing" 2012 Focus Publishers/R Pullins and Co

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