

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for THEA 39
MUSICAL THEATER WORKSHOP
Effective: Fall 2002

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

THEA 39 — MUSICAL THEATER WORKSHOP — 3.00 units

Training in performance skills for the musical theater, with emphasis on acting and stage movement. Dual enrollment with Music 39.

3.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

Discipline:

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 3

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

- A. Be able to stage and perform a musical theater scene and song with a partner;
- B. Be able to stage and perform a musical theater solo;
- C. Be able to perform successfully in group musical theater scenes and songs;
- D. Be able to confidently audition for a musical theater production;
- E. Have participated in the rehearsal and performance of a musical theater ensemble number, duet scene/song and solo;
- F. Have a knowledge of the techniques used in acting, singing and movement in performing and auditioning for the musical theater;
- G. Have an understanding of the history, styles, writers and performing artists of the American Musical Theater
- H. Have the ability to analyze musical theater scenes, characters, music and lyrics in preparation for performing or directing musical theater;
- I. Be able to critically evaluate the musical theater acting/singing performances of other students and performers.

V. CONTENT:

- A. Basic principles of musical theater staging
- B. Basic acting technique
- C. Script, lyric, music and character analysis
- D. Rehearsals and performance of the following musical theater scenes and musical numbers:
 1. An ensemble scene and song
 2. A duet scene and song
 3. A small group scene and song
 4. A musical solo
 - a. Performed as if in a performance of the show
 - b. Performed as if at an audition
- E. Coaching by the instructor in the preparation and performances of the above scenes/songs;
- F. Study of musical theater as an art form, including analysis of its individual and collaborative parts – music, lyrics, libretti, acting, choreography, staging, etc.
- G. Written work:
 1. Character and scene analysis for duet scene/song
 2. Critique of one live musical theater production

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. Demonstrations, lectures and workshops on musical theater acting, movement, staging and choreography;
- B. Preparation, rehearsal and in-class performance of musical theater ensemble numbers, duets and solos;
- C. Coaching and evaluation of individual and group work
- D. Guidance and instruction in the preparation of written assignments – the scene/character analyses and the live performance critique
- E. A second presentation of the performed work, incorporating things learned from the critiques and suggestions after the first presentation
- F. Video feedback through the taping of scenes and songs
- G. Feedback and reactions to performed work, both by students and instructors

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Reading the libretto and listening to the Broadway cast album from which the student's duet scene/song is taken. Writing a show, scene, and character analysis based on an outline provided by the instructor. B. Presenting a rehearsed scene and song in class, with lines memorized and staging created by the students, using acting and staging techniques learned in class.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

1. Papers
2. Class Participation
3. Class Performance
4. Other:
 - a. Grading of prepared scenes/songs and solos, based on the objective quality of the work, the discipline and seriousness demonstrated in rehearsals, and the amount of improvement and growth shown by the student
 - b. Grading of the written show and character analyses
 - c. Judgment of participation by the student in class technique work and discussions
 - d. Grades for performed work should be assigned and communicated to the student as soon as possible after work is done. Participation grade should be made known to student at least once in the middle of the semester.
 - e. Attendance

B. **Frequency**

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Piano-vocal scores of shows from which scenes/songs are done
- B. Libretti of shows from which scenes/songs are done
- C. Anthologies of musical theater songs