

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for THEA 50

STAGECRAFT

Effective: Fall 2015

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

THEA 50 — STAGECRAFT — 3.00 units

An introduction to technical theatre and the creation of scenic elements. Includes basic concepts of design, painting techniques, set construction, set movement, prop construction, backstage organization, and career possibilities. May include stage management, lighting, and/or sound techniques. Lecture, reading, projects, and practical experience.

1.00 Units Lecture 2.00 Units Lab

Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

Discipline:

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	18.00
Lab Hours:	108.00
Total Hours:	126.00

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. Recognize and use backstage and shop terminology, tools, materials and techniques.
- B. Organize a basic scenic construction project, including reading plans, selecting materials, selecting tools, and working safely.
- C. Analyze scenic production problems; evaluate alternatives and recommend solutions.
- D. Work collaboratively with designers, technicians, and other theatre personnel.
- E. Explain how the architecture and technical systems of a theater work;
- F. Recognize crew organization, hang and focus lights, record a sound effect, or set up a microphone.
- G. Describe the styles and explain the history of theatrical scenic design;
- H. Construct basic stage scenery;
 - I. Mix and apply paint using scenic art methods;
- J. Create renderings and scale drawings to express their creative ideas;
- K. Operate a basic theater audio/visual systems;
- L. Express an understanding of the basics of theater lighting, including color and mixing through design renderings, practical demonstration of instrument use, and verbal explanation;
- M. Explain the basics of a theater sound systems;
- N. Cooperate effectively as a member of a production and project team;
- O. Conceptualize, plan, create and successfully present a portfolio project;
- P. Describe the wide variety of career opportunities in technical theater and related fields.

V. CONTENT:

- A. Introduction to Technical Theater Basics:
 1. Shop protocol and safety
 2. Technical production organization and equipment
 3. Basic scenic construction and painting
 4. Theatrical rigging and safety
 5. Basic scene design concepts
 6. Interpretation of ground plans, lighting or sound plots
 7. How designers and technicians work collaboratively
- B. How a theater works
 1. Architecture
 2. Machinery
 3. Electronics
 4. Materials
- C. Scenic Design
 1. History – Ancient Greece to present
 2. Styles – Western, Asian, Realism, Expressionism, Impressionism, Fragmentation, Constructivism
 3. Elements

- D. Stage scenery – design and construction
 - 1. Layout and planning
 - 2. Materials and cut lists
 - 3. Construction management and techniques
 - 4. Handling (Newton's three laws)
 - 5. Storage
- E. Scenic Painting
 - 1. Care, handling and storage of paint and tools
 - 2. Color mixing
 - 3. Scenic painting techniques
- F. Drawing
 - 1. Sketching and rendering
 - 2. Using a scale
 - 3. Drafting
 - 4. Pattern and stencil making
 - 5. Macro and full-scale
- G. Theater Lighting
 - 1. Physics and sources of light
 - 2. System elements and functions
 - 3. Control and dimming systems
 - 4. Lighting instruments
 - 5. Location/direction of instruments
 - 6. Lighting color
 - 7. Moving lights
 - 8. Hanging and cabling instruments
 - 9. Lighting safety
- H. Theater sound
 - 1. Physics of sound
 - 2. System design and components
 - 3. Audio sources and media
 - 4. Control and manipulation
 - 5. Dramatic effect
 - 6. Sound as part of a production
- I. A/V Systems and components
 - 1. Slide and video projectors
 - 2. Video cameras and monitors
 - 3. Digital and film cameras
 - 4. Emerging technology
- J. Hand and power tools
 - 1. Proper use, care and maintenance
 - 2. Safety
 - 3. Storage
- K. Production Teamwork
 - 1. Positions attitude
 - 2. Taking Directions
 - 3. Support of others
- L. Careers in technical theater
 - 1. Live theater, opera, dance, concerts
 - 2. Film, TV, video, multi-media
 - 3. Theme parks and Casinos
 - 4. A/V in business and industry
 - 5. Education
 - 6. Community theater

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. Lectures/chalk talks
- B. Group discussions
- C. **Field Trips** - to theaters and scene shops
- D. Team projects in lab periods
- E. Outside readings and written assignments
- F. Hands-on laboratory periods 1. Class projects 2. Work on school productions

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Reading assignments in text
- B. Reading assignments in additional books on reserve in the LRC
- C. Drawing assignments. Research the play, historic period and setting, and then design and create an elevation design for a Las Positas theater production of a play.
- D. Research assignments
- E. Individual portfolio project
- F. Attendance at local performances
- G. Working on building projects for LPC production
- H. Construct and then paint a 4x8 theatrical flat using specific painting techniques.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

- 1. Exams/Tests
- 2. Quizzes
- 3. Projects
- 4. Class Participation
- 5. Other:
 - a. Class attendance, attitude and participation points
 - b. In-class quizzes
 - c. Individual portfolio project
 - d. MidTerm Exam
 - e. Final exam

B. **Frequency**

- 1. Weekly assessment of class attendance, attitude and participation

2. 2-5 in-class quizzes

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Carver, Rita Kolger *Stagecraft Fundamentals Second Edition: A Guide and Reference for Theatrical Production*. 2 ed., Focal Press, 2012.
2. Brewster, K. *Fundamentals of Theatrical Design: A Guide to the Basics of Scenic, Costume, and Lighting Design.*, Allworth Press, 2011.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Basic drawing and drafting materials
- B. Color wheel
- C. Lighting color media fan deck
- D. Appropriate painting clothes, including shoes