

Las Positas College  
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## Course Outline for THEA 10

### INTRODUCTION TO DRAMATIC ARTS

Effective: Fall 2018

#### I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

THEA 10 — INTRODUCTION TO DRAMATIC ARTS — 3.00 units

A survey of the elements of Theater event, its contribution to cultures and societies throughout history.

3.00 Units Lecture

#### **Strongly Recommended**

- Eligibility for ENG 1A -

#### **Grading Methods:**

Letter Grade

#### **Discipline:**

- Drama/Theater Arts

**Family:** Theater Humanities

	MIN
<b>Lecture Hours:</b>	54.00
<b>Expected Outside of Class Hours:</b>	108.00
<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 this course, it is strongly recommended that the student should be able to:**

##### A. -Eligibility for ENG 1A

1. Use strategies to assess a text's difficulty, purpose, and main idea prior to the act of reading
2. Annotate a text during the act of reading
3. Employ strategies that enable a critical evaluation of a text
4. Respond critically to a text through class discussions and writing
5. Use concepts of paragraph and essay structure and development to analyze his/her own and others' essays
6. Write effective summaries of texts that avoid wording and sentence structure of the original
7. Organize coherent essays around a central idea or a position
8. Apply structural elements in writing that are appropriate to the audience and purpose
9. Provide appropriate and accurate evidence to support positions and conclusions
10. Produce written work that reflects academic integrity and responsibility, particularly when integrating the exact language and ideas of an outside text into one's own writing
11. Utilize effective grammar recall to check sentences for correct grammar and mechanics
12. Proofread his/her own and others' prose

#### IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

- A. Analyze and evaluate the nature of theatre and its role in society.
- B. Assess the historical, artistic, social, and philosophical in which theatre exists. Describe various important eras of theater history in terms of their theater architecture, plays, writers, styles and importance;
- C. Critically analyze dramatic literature and performances. Describe the contributions of the various people who create dramatic art through essays and in class presentations
- D. List and explain the various dimensions of Aristotle's six elements of drama;
- E. Differentiate between the various styles and forms of live theater;
- F. Identify and examine theatrical components in production.
  1. 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;
  2. Propose alternative solutions to theatrical production situations.
- G. Appreciate viewing theatre as an art form.
- H. 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
- B. Creators of Dramatic Art: Study of the process and contribution of the following people in the creation of live theater:
- C.
  - 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
- D. 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
- E. 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
- F. Structure of Dramatic Writing
  - 1. Climactic play structure
  - 2. Episodic plot structure
  - 3. Combinations of climactic and episodic
- G. Types of Theatrical Presentation
  - 1. Proscenium stages
  - 2. Thrust stages
  - 3. Arena stages
  - 4. Other variations of stages
- H. Theater Criticism
  - 1. Developing evaluative judgments for theatrical works.
  - 2. Writing reviews of theatrical productions.
- I. 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. Seeing/hearing live theater 1. Group field trips 2. Individual attendance a. Las Positas and Chabot College shows b. Shows in the community
- B. Assigned text book readings
- C. Reading of plays
- D. **Demonstration** -
- E. In class "concert" readings of scenes from plays
- F. Group discussions – entire group together and small groups
- G. Viewing/hearing of films, tapes and CDs
- H. Student participation in creative projects
- I. **Lecture** -

## 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. Make particular reference to all of Aristotle's six elements of drama as found in his Poetics.
- C. Exploring the physical expression of Italian Comedy (Commedia dell'arte) and the historical record of common lazzi and Italian Renaissance politics, adapt a story into the style of Commedia for performance in class
- D. Read and participate during class discussion of a classical text, such as *the Bacchae*, *Everyman*, *Macbeth*, *The Country Wife*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, and *A Doll's House*
- E. Weekly assigned text and script reading
- F. Daily note taking
- G. 2-4 Exams per semester

#### VIII. EVALUATION:

##### A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Quizzes
3. Papers
4. Oral Presentation
5. Projects
6. Group Projects
7. Class Participation
8. Class Performance
9. Other:
  - a. Attendance

##### B. **Frequency**

1. Weekly assignments, varying in assessment strategy, will be utilized.
2. Test and quizzes (3-4 per semester):
  - a. On plays read
  - b. On in-class lectures, discussions and viewings.
3. Individual and/or group projects (1 per semester)
4. Participation in class discussions (weekly)
5. Written work
  - a. Responses to plays seen (1 per semester)
  - b. Reports on specific topics (reading response to scripts - 1 per read play 4-6 per semester)

#### IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Hartnoll, Phyllis *The Theater: A Concise History*. 4th ed., Thames and Hudson, 2012.
2. Cohen, Robert. *Theatre, Brief Version*. 11th ed., Mayfield Publishing Company, 2017.
3. McConachie, Bruce, Tobin Nellhaus, Carol Fisher Sorgenfrei, and Tamara Underiner. *Theatre Histories: An Introduction*. 3rd ed., Routledge, 2016.
4. Play scripts of representative plays, such as Oedipus Rex, The Bacchae, Everyman, The Rope, The Second Shepherd's Play, Hamlet, The School for Scandal, The Country Wife, A Doll's House. All classical texts are public domain and pulled from open sources.

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