

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for THEA 41

PASSPORT TO THEATER

Effective: Fall 2002

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

THEA 41 — PASSPORT TO THEATER — 1.00 - 6.00 units

Supervised participation in scheduled performances of the theater department as an actor or backstage worker. Hour value to be determined by the instructor, after audition, based upon the scope of the performance or technical assignment. Enrollment is for the duration of the rehearsals and performances.

1.00 - 6.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

	<u>MIN</u>	<u>MAX</u>
Lecture Hours:	18.00	108.00
Total Hours:	18.00	108.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 4

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

- A. Have preformed or assisted backstage on a main stage Las Positas College theatrical production;
- B. Have developed a sense of responsibility to self and others in the process of preparing a theatrical production;
- C. Have a greater awareness of the ensemble effort needed among actors in a theatrical production and of the collaborative effort required between the acting area and all the design/technical elements of a production;
- D. Have experienced the feelings of confidence and joy that come from both the process and performance of a theatrical production.

V. CONTENT:

A. For Actors:

- 1. Auditions and casting
- 2. Rehearsals
 - a. Introduction to the play, playwright, style, historical background, etc.
 - b. Blocking
 - c. Memorization of lines
 - d. Character work
 - e. Coaching by the director
 - f. Working rehearsals
- 3. Performances

B. For Stage Managers

- 1. Planning meetings with instructors and staff
- 2. Preparatory work
 - a. Calendars and schedules
 - b. Production book and script
 - c. Publicity
- 3. Rehearsals
 - a. Blocking rehearsals
 - b. Working rehearsals
 - c. Technical and dress rehearsals

C. For Technical Workers:

- 1. Introduction to the play or musical
- 2. Instruction in use of tools, techniques for work, safety precautions, etc.
- 3. Work sessions for the building and painting of sets, hanging and focusing of lights, etc.
- 4. Technical rehearsals
- 5. Performances
- 6. Strike of the set after the last performance

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. Lecture, discussion and research on the background of the playwright, play, style, etc.
- B. Individual study, research and creative work by each actor

- C. Group rehearsals with various cast members
- D. Continued supervision, feedback and coaching during the performance period
- E. Demonstration and hands-on guidance in the technical areas of set building, set painting and lighting installation
- F. Performances
- G. Coaching, feedback and guidance from the director/instructor

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Writing a character analysis, including biography, social background, physical characteristics, inner life and objectives. B. Preparing for "off book" rehearsals; learning all line and cues through outside preparation in time for the first off book rehearsal, when no scripts are allowed on stage. C. Prepare and maintain a "production book", which contains all documents related to the production and in which is notated the blocking for the show and all technical cues. D. Participate in the building and painting of a theatrical "flat" which will be used in the production.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

- 1. Papers
- 2. Class Participation
- 3. Class Performance
- 4. Other:
 - a. Attendance and punctuality
 - b. Level of responsibility in being prepared, e.g. lines being memorized on time
 - c. Spirit of participation in the creative process
 - d. Spirit of cooperation in working with cast and staff members
 - e. Written work such as character analyses
 - f. Quality of performances

B. **Frequency**

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Script of play being performed
- 2. Libretto and vocal book of musical being performed

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: