

COURSE OUTLINE

Theatre Arts 163 Acting Styles Workshop in Contemporary Theatre Production

I. Catalog Statement

Theatre Arts 163 is a workshop in acting styles designed to support contemporary theatre production. The students enrolled in this course will be formed into a company to present contemporary plays as a part of the season in the Theatre Arts Department at Glendale Community College. Each student will be assigned projects in accordance with his or her interests and talents. The projects will involve some phase of theatrical production as it relates to performance skills in the style of Contemporary World Theatre. Included will be current or recent successful stage play scripts from Broadway, Off-Broadway, West-end London, and other world theatre centers and date back to the style changes in realism in the mid-to-late 1950's. The rehearsal laboratory consists of 10-15 hours per week.

Units -- 1.0 – 3.0

Lecture Hours -- 1.0

Total Laboratory Hours -- 3.0 – 9.0

(Faculty Laboratory Hours -- 3.0 – 9.0 + Student Laboratory Hours -- 0.0 = 3.0 – 9.0 Total Laboratory Hours)

Prerequisite Skills: None

Note: This course may be taken 4 times; a maximum of 12 units may be earned.

II. Course Entry Expectations

Skills Expectations: Reading 5; Writing 5; Listening-Speaking 5; Math 1.

III. Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of the required course work, the student will be able to:

1. recognize the professional responsibilities of a producing group associated with the audition, preparation, and performance of a theatre production before a paying, public audience;
2. identify the practical aspects of mounting a theatre production from diverse activities outside the traditional classroom;
3. recognize the evolution of a character in a production from script to performance;
4. assess the total organization, discipline, and coordination necessary in the development of acting skills;
5. compare and contrast the various play production techniques learned in the traditional classroom environment to the realities of a practical production environment;
6. identify production tasks and their responsibilities to the rest of the production ensemble.

IV. Course Content

This Course is planned to give the student experience in varied phases of theatre production in front of and behind the scenes.

A. The Collaborative Process in Producing a Contemporary Theatre Presentation. 16 hours

1. The audience-performance relationship
2. Theatrical conventions
3. Play structure of the scripts related to the project
4. Author background and social inheritance of the plays
5. Character analysis and breakdown
6. Acting, directing and design elements.
7. Text analysis for actors
8. Blocking and movement plotting
9. Promotions and ticket sales
10. Post production analysis
11. Costume, lighting, and set dismantle and storage.

B. Production Duties as Assigned.

(Lab) 48 – 144 hours

1. Acting: students will have at least one acting assignment suited to their present ability. The student's experiences will be as follows:
 - a. cold readings;
 - b. competitive tryouts (casting not based entirely on ability);
 - c. serving on a casting panel;
 - d. six to ten week's rehearsal, working from ten to fifteen hours per week under the direction of the instructor or a qualified student director or others supervised by the instructor;
 - e. dress rehearsal before an invited audience;
 - f. performances given before public;
 - g. final evaluation of performances.
2. Stage Manager:
 - a. set up stage or rehearsals;
 - b. make up a prompt book (light, sound, and curtain cues);
 - c. hold prompt book during rehearsal;
 - d. be acquainted with each actor's business in order to be able to step in during rehearsals;
 - e. assume complete responsibility for the "running of the show" during performances.
3. Prop Manager:
 - a. prepare a prop plot which lists all necessary props for the play and their position of placement;
 - b. supervise the collection of props and their return at the close of the play;
 - c. supervise the props during rehearsals and performances.
4. Sound Effects Manager:

- a. supervise collection of music and sound effects;
 - b. make up cue sheets for sound;
 - c. operate the sound and music effects during rehearsals and performances.
5. Publicity Manger:
- a. organize the development of publicity as to type, number, and time;
 - b. supervise the program and poster design;
 - c. make the necessary preparations if other classes or guests are to be invited;
 - d. act as the house manager during the performances.
6. Assistants:
- a. will be assigned to help the costume and make-up classes.

V. Methods of Presentation

The following instructional methodologies may be used in the course:

1. sectional rehearsals;
2. dramaturgical review and study of the text;
3. blocking rehearsals;
4. repetition of movement with script-in-hand;
5. rehearsals with a prompter;
6. technical rehearsals;
7. rehearsals;
8. performances.

VI. Assignments and Methods of Evaluation

1. Essay exams.
2. Problem solving exercises or practical skill demonstration by the students.
3. Evaluation of lab work related to the audition, rehearsal, and performance.

VII. Textbook

The text for this course will be the individual play scripts as related to the individual production title.