

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **Theatre Arts 171 (C-ID Number: THTR 171) Stagecraft (C-ID Title: Stagecraft) (Formerly Theatre Arts 131)**

#### **I. Catalog Statement**

Theatre Arts 171 is an introduction to technical theatre including basic principles of scenic design, construction, painting, and handling of scenery and scenic effects, prop construction, backstage organization, career opportunities and safety procedures within the operation of the stage. Students prepare for stage crew assignments for the various Glendale Community College productions. Additional hours to devote to rehearsals and performances are required.

Total Lecture/Demonstration Units: 1.0

Total Laboratory Units: 2.0

**Total Course Units: 3.0**

Total Lecture/Demonstration Hours: 16.0

Total Laboratory Hours: 96.0 hours

**Total Faculty Contact Hours: 112.0**

Prerequisite: None

#### **II. Course Entry Expectations**

Skill Level Ranges: Reading 4; Writing 4; Listening/Speaking 5; Math 2.

#### **Course Exit Standards**

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

1. recognize and use backstage and shop terminology, tools, materials, and techniques;
2. organize a basic scenic construction project, including reading plans, selecting materials, selecting tools, and working safely;
3. analyze scenic production problems, evaluate alternatives, and recommend solutions;
4. work collaboratively with designers, technicians, and other theatre personnel;
5. recognize crew organization, hang and focus lights, record a sound effect, and set up a microphone.

**IV. Course Content**

**Total Faculty Contact Hours = 112 hours**

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| A. Shop Protocol and Safety            | Lecture 2 hours |
| 1. Shop rules                          | Lab 3 hours     |
| 2. Tools and work areas                |                 |
| B. Technical Terminology               | Lecture 2 hours |
| 1. Stage                               |                 |
| 2. Lights                              |                 |
| 3. Sound                               |                 |
| C. Theatre Plan                        | Lecture 2 hours |
| 1. Proscenium                          |                 |
| 2. Apron and orchestra pit             |                 |
| 3. Curtains and drape                  |                 |
| 4. Counter weight system               |                 |
| 5. Stage floor and traps               |                 |
| 6. Scene shop and scenery dock         |                 |
| D. Lighting Architecture and Equipment | Lecture 2 hours |
| 1. Beam and boom positions             | Lab 6 hours     |
| 2. Onstage battens and trees           |                 |
| 3. Border lights and footlights        |                 |
| 4. Stage lighting circuits             |                 |
| 5. Patch panel                         |                 |
| 6. Control board                       |                 |
| 7. Dimmers                             |                 |
| E. Scenery                             | Lecture 2 hours |
| 1. Forms                               | Lab 6 hours     |
| a. Flat or two-dimensional             |                 |
| b. Three-dimensional                   |                 |
| c. Practical units                     |                 |
| d. Drops                               |                 |
| F. Construction                        | Lecture 2 hours |
| 1. Materials                           | Lab 22 hours    |
| a. Lumber and plywood                  |                 |
| b. Covering fabrics                    |                 |
| c. Nails, screws, bolts and glue       |                 |
| d. Hardware (common and theatrical)    |                 |
| 2. Building process                    |                 |
| a. Working drawings                    |                 |
| b. Joints                              |                 |
| c. Flats                               |                 |

- d. Ground-rows and profiles
- e. Parallels and platforms
- f. Steps and stairs
- g. Door and window units
- h. Columns, trees, and rocks
- i. Drops
- j. projects based on plans and design

G. Scene Painting

- 1. Types of paint used in the theater
- 2. Painting equipment
- 3. Painting techniques
  - a. Mixing pigment and glue
  - b. Painting procedure
  - c. Painting textures
  - d. Projects based on plans and design

Lecture 2 hours  
Lab 24 hours

H. Setting and Shifting Scenery

- 1. Stage properties
- 2. Stage lighting
  - a. Basic electricity for stage technicians
  - b. Equipment
  - c. Light and color
  - d. Lighting methods
  - e. Lighting plots and cue sheets
  - f. Light hang and execution of design

Lecture 2 hours  
Lab 35 hours

V. **Methods of Instruction**

The following methods of instruction may be used in the course:

- 1. lecture/demonstrations;
- 2. model construction project based on an instructor's design;
- 3. multimedia presentations.

VI. **Out of Class Assignments**

The following out of class assignments may be used in this course:

- 1. observations of two or more theatrical productions;
- 2. written critiques of plays;
- 3. participation in the running of theatrical productions at Glendale Community College.

VII. **Methods of Evaluation**

The following methods of evaluation may be used in the course:

- 1. attendance and class participation;
- 2. evaluation of individual model construction project;

3. evaluation of written assignments (e.g. critiques);
4. student project (e.g. light plot, white model);
5. competency tests of construction, painting and other technical activities.

#### **VIII. Textbook**

Holloway, John *Illustrated Theatre Production Guide* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Philadelphia: Taylor & Francis Group, 2010. Print.

12<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Level. ISBN-10: 0240812042.

Oren, Parker W. (Block, Dick; Wolf, R. Craig) *Scene Design and Stage Lighting* 10<sup>th</sup> edition. Belmont: Wadsworth Publishing, 2012. Print.

12<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Level ISBN-10: 0495501905.

Gillette, Michael. *Theatrical Design and Production: An Introduction to Scene Design and Construction, Lighting, Sound, Costume, and Makeup* 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2012. Print.

13<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Level ISBN-10: 0073382221.

#### **IX. Student Learning Outcomes**

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

1. assess the evolution of sets, lights, and sound for a production from script to performance;
2. demonstrate an ability to function at an acceptable level of proficiency in at least two areas of stagecraft.