

FOLSOM CORDOVA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

INTRO TO TECHNICAL THEATRE

Date: January 2009

Category: Visual and Performing Arts

Proposed Grade Level(s): 9-12

Course Length: 1 Term/ 1 year

Grading: A-F

Number of Credits: 5 per Semester

Subject Area Credit: Fine Arts

Prerequisites: Previous or Concurrent Enrollment in Drama 1

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to introduce students to technical and design elements in the field of theatre. Students will learn the skills and concepts associated with the technical elements of theatre including: lighting, sound, set design, stagecraft, costuming and production management. Students will experience all aspects in each design area including script analysis, research, design and implementation. Students will create a professional portfolio which includes sketches, annotated research and pictures of completed design projects.

GENERAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- Students will read and analyze plays to reveal author's intention (dramatic action) and design needs.
- Students will learn the vocabulary of technical theatre and design elements and how to apply design elements to their projects.
- Students will learn about a variety of rules and procedures with regarding to general, theatre, shop and personal safety.
- Students will learn proper research techniques and documentation with regards to designing technical elements in theatre.
- Students will learn about color theory, design theory, prospective drawing, basic drafting techniques and thumbnail sketches in costume design.
- Students will learn how to create a set design, prop and furniture list, costume plot, lighting hookup, sound flow chart and lighting and sound cue sheets.
- Students will apply design techniques to create model sets, lighting effects, music/sound effect CD's and basic costume elements.
- Students will learn basic stage make-up techniques to create a variety of characters.
- Students will apply knowledge in production management to create a Stage Manager's Promptbook.
- Students will learn about career and post-secondary education possibilities relating to technical theatre.
- Students will develop creative skills in problem solving, communication and time management.
- Students will create portfolios and participate in class critiques.

STUDENT READING COMPONENT:

- Students will be assigned reading from textbooks and play scripts, as well as follow written instructions on projects.
- Students will demonstrate critical reading skills through interpretation of playwright's intent and perceived design needs.

STUDENT WRITING COMPONENT:

- Students will write directorial analyses and design prospectuses for each major play studied.
- Students will summarize and analyze research for design projects.
- Students will complete written reflections of their finished work.

STUDENT ORAL COMPONENT:

- Students will present their design proposals detailing their artistic intent.
- Students will present their completed design projects to their peers with an explanation of their intent and evaluation of the result.
- Students will orally critique artistic design proposals and projects.

DETAILED UNITS OF INSTRUCTION:

Unit 1 – Safety

- General Theatre Safety
- Scene Shop Safety
- Personal Safety Habits
- Electrical Safety (Lighting and Sound)

Unit 2 – Play Analysis

- Reading a Play
- Identifying Elements of a Play
- Interpreting Dramatic Action
- Identifying Design Needs

Unit 3 – Set Design

- Scale
- Drafting Techniques
- Researching for Set Design
- Models
- Perspective Drawing
- Set Dressing and Props
- Color Theory and Painting Techniques
- Basic Scenery and Prop Construction

Unit 4 – Costume Design

- Costume Research Techniques
- Drawing Thumbnail Sketches
- Costume Plots
- Basic Stage Make-up
- Costuming on a Budget

Unit 5 – Lighting Design

- Color Theory in Lighting
- Magic Sheets and Beat Sheets
- Lighting Instruments and accessories
- Lighting plot and cue sheets

Unit 6 – Sound Design

- Research Techniques for Sound
- Editing and Cueing sound software
- Sound Cue Sheet
- Production CD
- Sound Equipment
- Sound hook-ups and flow chart

Unit 7 – Production Management and Careers in Technical Theatre

- Stage Management
- Careers in Production Management and Technical Theatre

Unit 8 – Presentation of Theoretical Design Portfolio

SUBJECT AREA CONTENT STANDARDS TO BE ADDRESSED:

Artistic Perception

1. Use the vocabulary of theatre as it applies to technical theatre and design
2. Document observations and perceptions of production elements
3. Identify the use of metaphor, subtext and symbolic elements in scripts

Creative Expression

1. Design scenes or plays from a variety of theatrical periods and styles.
2. Work collaboratively as a designer to meet directorial goals in scenes.

Historical and Cultural Context

1. Design theatre pieces in specific theatrical styles.

Aesthetic Valuing

1. Compare a traditional interpretation of a play with a non-traditional interpretation and defend the merits of the different interpretations.
2. Use complex evaluation criteria and terminology to compare and contrast a variety of genres of dramatic literature.

Connections, Relationships, Applications

1. Describe how skills acquired in theatre may be applied to other content areas and careers.
2. Manage time, prioritize responsibilities and meet completion deadlines for a production.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of professional standards for technical artists.
4. Demonstrate the ability to set deadlines, organize priorities and identify needs and resources when participating in the production of a play or scene.
5. Communicate creative design and directorial choices to ensemble members using leadership skills, aesthetic judgment or problem-solving skills.
6. Develop advanced or entry-level competencies for a career in an artistic or technical field in the theatrical arts.

THIS COURSE WILL PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE CAHSEE AND/OR THE CST'S IN:

Writing, Reading, Language Arts, Math

LAB FEE, IF REQUIRED:

\$30 for take home materials and student make-up kit.

DISTRICT ESLR'S TO BE ADDRESSED:

Students will be:

Self-Directed Learners:

- Apply skills developed in research and project management to other academic and life settings.
- Apply their knowledge of design elements to theoretical and practical applications/projects.
- Revise and reflect on their ideas and solutions and explore career options related to technical theatre.

Effective Communicators:

- Communicate the playwright's attention through a variety design elements
- Present design proposals with explanation detailing intention and process
- Summarize their design concept through the use of a design prospectus

Quality Producers and Performers:

- Create a professional-level Theoretical Design Portfolio

Constructive Thinkers:

- Analyze and interpret theatrical literature for intent and design
- Develop creative expressions to support the dramatic action of a play
- Interpret and apply research to design elements

Collaborative Workers:

- Work as part of a design team to carry out a specific design element

Responsible Citizens:

- Practice safety standards in all areas of design and production
- Understand and practice proper theatre etiquette
- Respect and maintain theatrical equipment