TH Courses

TH 101. First-Year Theatre Seminar. 1 unit  
CR/NC  
Term Typically Offered: F  
Prerequisite: Theatre Arts major.  
Introduction to the study of Theatre, focusing on methods, topics and  
skills in the Theatre Arts major at Cal Poly. Emphasis on practical and  
professional expectations as well as opportunities within the Department.  
Examination of curricula, areas of interest, and career planning. Credit/No  
Credit Grading only. 1 seminar.

TH 210. Introduction to Theatre. 4 units  
GE Area C3  
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP  
Overview of theatre principles and production practices, including  
terminology and conventions, methods, dramatic literature and  
performance, aesthetic appreciation, and technology. Emphasis on  
theatre as an integral cultural, social, and artistic entity. Attendance at  
theatre performance(s) required. Course may be offered in classroom-  
based or online format. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE C3.

TH 220. Acting Methods. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: W  
Prerequisite: TH 210.  
Contemporary acting techniques focused on character building,  
objectives and tactics, with a focus on the development and  
implementation of various interactive methods of vocal work, images and  
actor resources. 3 lectures, 1 activity.

TH 225. Costume Construction I. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP  
Basic costume construction techniques used in the entertainment  
industry. Building of all costumes and special craft projects for main  
stage theatre productions. May not be taken concurrently with TH 230 or  
TH 330. 4 laboratories.

TH 227. Theatre History I. 4 units  
GE Area C3  
Term Typically Offered: F, W  
Highlights of European and American theatrical history from the 18th to  
20th century. Production methods, acting styles, playwriting theories and  
representative plays. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE C3.

TH 228. Theatre History II. 4 units  
GE Area C3  
Term Typically Offered: F, SP  
Highlights of European and American theatrical history from the 18th to  
20th century. Production methods, acting styles, playwriting theories and  
representative plays. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE C3.

TH 230. Stagecraft I. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP  
Basic stagecraft technique used in the entertainment industry.  
Construction and painting of scenery, building and gathering properties,  
hanging and focusing lighting instruments, and acting as running crew  
for department production each term. May not be taken concurrently with  
TH 225 or TH 325. 4 laboratories.

TH 231. Stagecraft II. 1-4 units  
CR/NC  
Term Typically Offered: TBD  
Directed group study of selected topics. The Class Schedule will list topic  
selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1 to 4 lectures.

TH 235. Stage Make-Up. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: F  
Introduction to the art of theatrical make-up design and application.  
Techniques for producing character, old age, fantasy and special  
effects make-up. Demonstration and discussion of various design and  
application styles. 3 lectures, 1 activity.

TH 240. Improvisational Theatre. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: SP  
Objectives and techniques of improvisational theatre. Participation in  
a series of exercises designed to develop skills in dramatic structure  
formatting, interactive problem solving, spontaneous scripting, dynamic  
communications, and applied performance styles. 2 lectures, 2 activities.

TH 245. Introduction to Stage Management. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: TBD  
Prerequisite: TH 210.  
Basic stage managerial skills for organizing, preparing, and fulfilling  
threatrical productions from the inception through rehearsal and  
performance. 4 lectures.

TH 246. Voice and Diction for the Stage. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: W  
Theory and practice in developing command of oral techniques for the  
stage including breath support, resonance and articulation. 4 lectures.

TH 247. Stage Make-Up. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: F  
Theory and practice in developing command of oral techniques for the  
stage including breath support, resonance and articulation. 4 lectures.

TH 255. Internship. 1-4 units  
CR/NC  
Term Typically Offered: TBD  
Part-time, supervised internship experience for Freshmen & Sophomore  
students in theatre or equivalent professionally related industry. Ability  
to work independently; strong verbal and written skills. Faculty approval  
of internship position required. Evaluations by supervisor and written  
reports by student required. 30 - 120 hours of work experience. Total  
credit limited to 4 units. Credit/ No credit grading only.

TH 260. Script Analysis. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: W  
Prerequisite: TH 210, TH 227 or TH 228.  
Script analysis taught as an essential applied skill for actors, designers  
and directors. Students read a variety of plays and learn how to examine  
their structure, theme and context. 4 seminars.
TH 295. Foundations in Theatrical Design. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: SP  
Prerequisite: TH 210.

Exploration of the fundamental principles and practices of designing for the stage. Emphasis placed upon the creative and collaborative process of theatre; development of the visual world of the play via language, color, drawing, analysis, and peer evaluation. 3 lectures, 1 activity.

TH 305. Topics in Diversity on the American Stage. 4 units  
GE Area C4; USCP  
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP  
Prerequisite: By audition only.

Preparation of a play for public presentation, including acting, stage management, publicity, or serving as a key member of the artistic team. Total credit limited to 12 units. Major credit limited to 4 units; repeated units are free electives. 4 laboratories.

TH 310. Costume History. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: TBD  
Prerequisite: TH 210; TH 290; and completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better.

Examines dramatic structure, techniques of dialogue, and means of characterization in variety of plays. Relates dramatic writing to technical, design, directorial and acting demands. Compositions of monologues, scenes and one-act play; works read and critiqued in class. 4 seminars.

TH 325. Costume Construction II. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP  
Prerequisite: Junior standing.

Exploration of the fundamental principles and practices of designing for the stage. Emphasis placed upon the creative and collaborative process of theatre; development of the visual world of the play via language, color, drawing, analysis, and peer evaluation. 3 lectures, 1 activity.

TH 330. Stagecraft II. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP  
Prerequisite: Junior standing.

Basic stagecraft technique used in the entertainment industry. Students construct and paint scenery, build and gather properties, hang and focus lighting instruments, and act as running crew for department production each term. Total credit limited to 8 units. May not be taken concurrently with TH 230 or TH 330. 4 laboratories.

TH 335. Seminar in Playwriting. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: W  
Prerequisite: TH 210; TH 290; and completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better.

Examines dramatic structure, techniques of dialogue, and means of characterization in variety of plays. Relates dramatic writing to technical, design, directorial and acting demands. Compositions of monologues, scenes and one-act play; works read and critiqued in class. 4 seminars.

TH 341. Advanced Acting Studio. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: F  
Prerequisite: TH 210 and TH 220.

Selected acting techniques with focus on specific advanced modes of training. The Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 12 units. 3 lectures, 1 activity.

TH 345. Rehearsal and Performance. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP  
Prerequisite: By audition only.

Preparation of a play for public presentation, including acting, stage management, publicity, or serving as a key member of the artistic team. Total credit limited to 12 units. Major credit limited to 4 units; repeated units are free electives. 4 laboratories.

TH 350. Theatre in the United States. 4 units  
GE Area C4  
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP  
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; completion of one course in GE Area B1 with a grade of C- or better; and TH 210, TH 227, or TH 228 for Theatre majors or completion of GE Area C3 for all other majors. Recommended: TH 210 for all other majors.

Examination of specific American plays, playwrights, organizations and movements, applying them as portraits of the United States' historical, philosophical and cultural make-up. Topical emphasis focuses on the definition and development of an 'American' identity via the context of theatre. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Area C4.

TH 360. Theatre for Young Audiences. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: SP  
Prerequisite: TH 210 or upper-division Liberal Studies, Child Development or Psychology course.

Practice of educational drama as applied to multidisciplinary curricula. Collaborate on story-based improvisation in areas that include language arts, social studies, geography and science with additional focus on examining emotional development and creativity. 3 lectures, 1 activity.

TH 370. Costume History. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: TBD  
Prerequisite: TH 210.

Dress worn in Western society from Ancient Egypt through AD 2000. Silhouette; how, when, and why particular garments were worn; emphasis on social, political, and economic context. 4 lectures.

TH 375. Global Theatre and Performance. 4 units  
GE Area C4  
Term Typically Offered: SU  
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; completion of one course in GE Area B1 with a grade of C- or better; and TH 210, TH 227, or TH 228 for Theatre majors or completion of GE Area C3 for all other majors. Recommended: TH 210 for all other majors.

Investigation of non-American theatre and dramatic performance; emphasis on plays, playwrights, and movements as portraits of philosophical/national make-up. Topical emphasis focuses on the definition and development of a cultural identity via the context of historical and contemporary theatre practices. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Area C4.
TH 400. Special Problems for Advanced Undergraduates. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: Consent of department head.

Individual investigation, research, or project centering around theatre. Total credit limited to 8 units.

TH 430. Scenic Design. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: TH 290 and TH 295.

Scenic design process used in the entertainment industry, including collaboration, concept development, research, sketching, drafting, color rendering using a variety of media, 3D model building, and the presentation of design material. 3 lectures, 1 activity.

TH 432. Costume Design. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: W
Prerequisite: TH 290 and TH 295.

Costume design process used in the entertainment industry, including collaboration, concept development, research, sketching, color rendering using a variety of media, and the presentation of design material. 3 lectures, 1 activity.

TH 434. Lighting Design. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F
Prerequisite: TH 290 and TH 295.

Lighting design process used in the entertainment industry, including collaboration, concept development, research, functional aspects of lighting equipment, CAD drafting, the development of production paperwork and presentation of design material. 3 lectures, 1 activity.

TH 450. Directing. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: TH 290 and consent of instructor.

Principles, philosophies, analytical methods, business practices, organizational techniques and interpersonal strategies of directing for the stage. Experiential work includes hands-on, in-class exercises, as well as intensive outside class rehearsals. Culmination in a public production of student-directed one-act plays. 3 lectures, 1 activity.

TH 461. Senior Project Seminar. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: F
Prerequisite: Senior standing and Theatre majors only.

Focus on post-graduate career planning options in theatre arts, including resume and portfolio building, preparation for professional work, graduate school and internships. A structure by which students design and submit their senior projects. 3 seminars.

TH 470. Selected Advanced Topics. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Directed group study of selected topics for advanced students. Open to undergraduate and graduate students. The Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1 to 4 lectures.

TH 471. Selected Advanced Laboratory. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Directed group laboratory study of selected topics for theatre students. The Class Schedule will list topics selected. Total credit limited to 12 units. 1-4 laboratories.

TH 480. Advanced Internship. 4 units
CR/NC
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: Junior standing with a minimum 3.0 GPA and consent of instructor.

Part-time, supervised internship experience in the entertainment or equivalent professional industry. Ability to work independently; strong verbal and written skills. Faculty approval required. Evaluations by internship supervisor and written reports by student required. 120 hours of work experience. Total credit limited to 8 units. Credit/No Credit grading.