Theatre (TH)

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, SP
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
Highlights of European theatrical history - Greeks, Romans, Medieval English and French theatre through the 17th 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: 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 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 240. Improvisational Theatre. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: W, 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: W
Prerequisite: TH 210.

Basic stage managerial skills for organizing, preparing, and fulfilling theatrical productions from the inception through rehearsal and performance. 4 lectures.

TH 260. 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 270. 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 275. Selected Topics. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Open to undergraduate students and consent of instructor.

Directed group study of selected topics. The Schedule of Classes will list title selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1 to 4 lectures.

TH 280. Body Awareness and Expression. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Directed group study of movement techniques and exercises to facilitate expressive physical performance. Body effectiveness, alignment and conditioning practice integrated with creative exploration and movement analysis of effort, spatial awareness and detailed body usage. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as DANC/TH 280.

TH 285. Internship. 1-4 units
CR/NC
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
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 290. Script Analysis. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: SP
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: SP
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and GE Area C3 (TH 210 recommended); or TH 210, TH 227, or TH 228 for Theatre majors.

Critical analysis of traditionally underrepresented groups in the American theatre, as writers, practitioners, story subjects. Investigation of dramatic literature and performance trends related to special interest topics. The Schedule of Classes will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE C4 except for Theatre majors. Fulfills USCP.

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

Specialized and advanced costume construction techniques used in the entertainment industry. Building of costumes and special craft projects for main stage theatre productions. Total credit limited to 8 units. May not be taken concurrently with TH 230 or TH 330. 4 laboratories.

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 225 or TH 325. 4 laboratories.

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 Schedule of Classes 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. Seminar in Playwriting. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: W
Prerequisite: TH 210; and completion of GE Area A with a grade 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 360. Theatre in the United States. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and GE Area C3 (TH 210 recommended); or TH 210, TH 227, or TH 228 for Theatre 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 C4 except for Theatre majors.

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 380. Theatre for Young Audiences. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
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 390. Global Theatre and Performance. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: SU
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and GE Area C3 (TH 210 recommended); or TH 210, TH 227, or TH 228 for Theatre majors.

Investigation of non-American theatre and dramatic performance; emphasis on plays, playwrights, and movements as portraits of philosophic/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 C4 except for Theatre majors.

TH 400. Special Problems for Advanced Undergraduates. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W
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: F
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: SP
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. 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. 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.