

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
CONTINUING EDUCATION  
COURSE OUTLINE

**SECTION I**

**SUBJECT AREA AND COURSE NUMBER**

DRAM 550

**COURSE TITLE**

PRACTICAL THEATRE - OA

**TYPE COURSE**

NON-FEE

OLDER ADULT

**CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides older adult students with the opportunity to understand practical theatre using the fundamentals of amateur theatrical production. Students will rehearse and perform staged readings and be involved in productions which may include, not limited to, minimal sets, scenery, costumes, and makeup. (FT)

**LECTURE/LABORATORY HOURS**

108

**ADVISORIES**

NONE

**RECOMMENDED SKILL LEVEL**

NONE

**INSTITUTIONAL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Social Responsibility  
SDCE students demonstrate interpersonal skills by learning and working cooperatively in a diverse environment.
2. Effective Communication  
SDCE students demonstrate effective communication skills.
3. Critical Thinking  
SDCE students critically process information, make decisions, and solve problems independently or cooperatively.

INSTITUTIONAL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (CONTINUED)

4. Personal and Professional Development

SDCE students pursue short term and life-long learning goals, mastering necessary skills and using resource management and self-advocacy skills to cope with changing situations in their lives.

COURSE GOALS

1. Introduce older adults to the fundamentals of practical theatre.
2. Learn acting preparation skills, including effective communication skills.
3. Involve the older adult in all phases of theatre production.
4. Expand appreciation of live theater in community.
5. Build intellectual and aesthetic understanding of the craft and technique of theatre arts.
6. Explore the diversity of theatre and its intersections with community, culture and society.
7. Produce diverse productions that challenge students and engage the community.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Analyze and describe the essential elements of practical theatre.
2. Establish skills to review and analyze performance, including communication skills to critique performance(s).
3. Demonstrate the ability to understand the characters in a play.
4. Demonstrate the ability to plan, organize, rehearse and mount dramatic production(s).
5. Possess a broad appreciation for theatre arts – in theory, performance, production and traditional or global standpoints.
6. Understand and apply knowledge of practical theatre

**SECTION II**

COURSE CONTENT AND SCOPE

1. Development of the Theatre
  - 1.1. Historical theatre practices and plays
  - 1.2. Theatre practices and plays in various cultures
  - 1.3. Cultural and historical eras in theatre
  - 1.4. Contemporary production practices and styles
2. Physical Aspects of the Theatre
  - 2.1. Nomenclature
  - 2.2. Stage
  - 2.3. Types of stages
3. Behind the Scenes (“Front of House/Back of House”)
  - 3.1. Design concept to support the script
    - 3.1.1. Document a design (e.g. photos, descriptions, etc.)
  - 3.2. Costume design (e.g. wardrobe “plot” for each character)
  - 3.3. Set design
  - 3.4. Lighting design and audio techniques

COURSE CONTENT AND SCOPE (CONTINUED)

- 3.5. Management of the house
- 3.6. Safety protocols
- 4. Acting Styles
  - 4.1. Distinguish among types of performance styles and approaches
  - 4.2. Envision, conceptualize and rehearse roles
  - 4.3. Practice the various perspectives and perceptions of acting styles
  - 4.4. Analyze the dimensions of characters in a play
  - 4.5. Analyze and compare artistic choices
  - 4.6. Develop appropriate criteria to revise personal work and interpret the work of others
  - 4.7.
- 5. Studying Scenes and/or Plays
  - 5.1. Monologues
    - 5.1.1. Scenes with single characters
  - 5.2. Dialogues
    - 5.2.1. Scenes with multiple characters
  - 5.3. Improvisations
  - 5.4. Group scenes
  - 5.5. Narratives
- 6. Actor's Preparation
  - 6.1. Research and characterization
  - 6.2. Interpret intent and meaning of artistic work/script
  - 6.3. Relaxation techniques/overcoming stage fright
  - 6.4. Body and voice exercises
  - 6.5. Memorization of lines
  - 6.6. Rehearsal process/taking direction
  - 6.7. Communication
    - 6.7.1. Offering and receiving constructive criticism
  - 6.8. Expansion of skills of listening, focus, and "play"
- 7. Director's Duties
  - 7.1. Approaches to directing
  - 7.2. Choosing the play/styles of plays
  - 7.3. Original/unpublished plays
  - 7.4. Reading the play
  - 7.5. Cutting the play
  - 7.6. Pre-rehearsal preparation
  - 7.7. Organizing a production staff
  - 7.8. Duties of the staff
  - 7.9. Casting
  - 7.10. Auditions
  - 7.11. Rehearsing
  - 7.12. Blocking
  - 7.13. Stage manager's role in rehearsals
  - 7.14. Technical rehearsal
  - 7.15. Running the play
- 8. Full Production
  - 8.1. The staged reading
  - 8.2. The one-act play

### COURSE CONTENT AND SCOPE (CONTINUED)

#### 9. The Performance

- 9.1. Publicity materials and program
- 9.2. Present a drama/theatre production for an audience

### APPROPRIATE READINGS

Reading assignments may include, but are not limited to the following:

1. News reports and articles
2. Literature related to historic, contemporary, domestic and international theatre

### WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Writing assignments may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Writing a short scene that encompasses concepts learned in class emphasizing monologues
2. Creating a design concept to support emotional impact of script

### OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS

Outside assignments may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Researching the impact of historic and current trends in theatre
2. Reviewing various acting styles and character development
3. Studying and memorize roles
4. Meeting with their acting partners and rehearse scenes.

### APPROPRIATE ASSIGNMENTS THAT DEMONSTRATE CRITICAL THINKING

Assignments which demonstrate critical thinking may include, but are not limited to:

1. Identifying an existing play/scene and evaluating what would happen if the time period and/or costumes were changed.
2. Identifying nuances that are needed to make the play/scene viable given the new parameters.

### EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated on their knowledge of theatre and acting styles through participation in discussions; their critiques of performed dramas or roles, and their informal reports covering their analysis of observed performances; including and not limited to:

1. Quizzes.
2. Self-evaluation of their achievement.
3. Assessment by the instructor and/or peers
4. Practical theater assessment rubric

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

Methods of instruction may include but are not limited to lectures, laboratory, presentations, class discussions, individual study, field trips, and guest speakers.

This course, or sections of this course, may be offered through distance education.

TEXTS AND SUPPLIES

Texts:

*The Intent to Live: Achieving Your True Potential as an Actor.* Larry Moss, Bantam Books, NY, NY, current edition

*The Actor's Scene Book*, Mekler Schulman, Vol. II, current edition

Reference materials:

*Acting: The First Six Lessons*, Richard Boleslavsky, Edith J. R. Isaacs, Echo Point Books & Media, current edition

*Respect for Acting.* Uta Hagen, McMillan, NY., NY, current edition

*An Actor Prepares.* Stanislavski, current edition

*The Actor's Scene book*, Schulman and Mekler, Vol. I, Bantam Books, New York, current edition

*The Actor's Scene book*, Schulman and Mekler, Vol II, Bantam Books, New York, current edition

*The Stanislavski System*, Moore, Penguin Books, New York, current edition

*Play Director's Survival Book: A Complete Step By Step Guide to Producing Theater in any School or Community Setting*, Simon & Schuster, NY, current edition

*Acting: Advanced Techniques for the Actor, Director, and Teacher*, Terry Schreiber, Mary Beth Barber, current edition

*Acting: The First 6 Lessons*, Richard Boleslavsky, current edition

*The Acting Bible: The Complete Resource for Aspiring Actors*, Michael Powell, current edition

Students may furnish some supplies as appropriate to their role.

PREPARED BY: Jim Way

DATE February 14, 1990

REVISED BY: Bill Grimes

DATE April 30, 1990

REVISED BY: Instructional Services/SLO's Added

DATE May 7, 2015

REVISED BY: Holly Ritter

DATE: December 15, 2015

REVISED BY: Claudia Tornsauffer

DATE: April 7, 2021

Instructors must meet all requirements stated in Policy 3100 (Student Rights, Responsibilities and Administrative Due Process), and the Attendance Policy set forth in the Continuing Education Catalog.

REFERENCES:

San Diego Community College District Policy 3100  
California Community Colleges, Title 5, Section 55002  
Continuing Education Catalog