I. **OVERVIEW**  
The following information will appear in the 2010 - 2011 catalog

**THETR 158 Rehearsal and Performance in Classical Theatre**  
**2 Units**

*Limitations on Enrollment:* Each student must demonstrate the potential ability to work as an ensemble member, ability to memorize lines and a commitment to the artistic process of creating a live theatre production. Enrollment in the class is inherently limited by the number of roles listed in the play script's cast of characters. An audition process is used to determine the casting of the play's character parts.

Students participate as actors in a fully supported theatre production. This course focuses on individual and ensemble performance techniques that are essential for a classical play production. Participation in rehearsals and public performance is required.

Four Maximum completions.  
Field trips might be required.  
(A-F Only) Lecture /Lab  
**Transfer:** (CSU, UC) **General Education:** (MJC-GE: Activities )

II. **LEARNING CONTEXT**  
Given the following learning context, the student who satisfactorily completes this course should be able to achieve the goals specified in Section III, Desired Learning:

A. **COURSE CONTENT**

1. **Required Content:**

   a. Analyzing the classical play
      i. Origins of the classical performance piece
      ii. Historical genres in classical theatre

   b. The role and responsibilities of an actor in a classical play
      i. Safe rehearsal and performance practices
      ii. Choreography and stage combat
      iii. Physical and vocal warm-up techniques

   c. Classical acting techniques
      i. Modern style vs. classical style
      ii. Perfecting timing
      iii. Pacing the scene
      iv. Building trust within the ensemble

   d. Developing the actor's instrument
i. Voice and articulation
ii. Meter and scanning verse
iii. Body

2. **Required Lab Content:**

a. Rehearsal
   i. Physical warm-up
   ii. Vocal warm-up
   iii. Scene study techniques for the classical play
   iv. Classical play acting styles
   v. Defining the other character
   vi. Responding to criticism

b. Performance
   i. Coping with performance anxiety
   ii. Supporting the ensemble
   iii. Discipline and the art of acting in a classical play
   iv. Performance pacing.

B. **ENROLLMENT RESTRICTIONS**

1. **Limitations on Enrollment**

   Each student must demonstrate the potential ability to work as an ensemble member, ability to memorize lines and a commitment to the artistic process of creating a live theatre production. Enrollment in the class is inherently limited by the number of roles listed in the play script's cast of characters. An audition process is used to determine the casting of the play's character parts.

C. **HOURS AND UNITS**

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D. **METHODS OF INSTRUCTION (TYPICAL)**

   *Instructors of the course might conduct the course using the following method:*

1. Discussions of historical and classical acting technique and character development.
2. Writing an actor's journal, character analysis, role discovery.
3. Performance exercises: role playing, pantomime, improvisation, etc.
4. One-on-one coaching/directing of character, movement and motivation.
5. Photographic slides, videos, films, handouts to supplement lecture, discussion and reading.
6. Guest presentations by technical staff: technical director and costume director, etc.
7. Lectures on classical acting styles; theatre history.

E. ASSIGNMENTS (TYPICAL)

1. EVIDENCE OF APPROPRIATE WORKLOAD FOR COURSE UNITS
   Time spent on coursework in addition to hours of instruction (lecture hours)
   
      1. Create an in depth character biography using the four traits:
         a. Physical
         b. Motivational
         c. Psychological
         d. Biographical
      2. Read script and production background material
      3. Memorize character lines as assigned from text daily
   
   b. Rehearsal and performance (lab)
      1. Participate as an active ensemble actor in a classical play.
      2. Weekly rehearsal schedule for preparation of upcoming production (usually 12 hours per week for 8 weeks).
         Typical rehearsal schedule:
         Week One: Text analysis and character discussion.
         Week Two: Blocking, staging, choreography
         Week Three: Line memorization
         Week Four: Line and blocking rehearsals; scene study
         Week Five: Run-throughs of entire play
         Week Six: Technical rehearsal; dress rehearsal
         Week Seven: Performances
         Week Eight: Performances

2. EVIDENCE OF CRITICAL THINKING
   Assignments require the appropriate level of critical thinking
   
   1. Written assignments emphasizing character traits, motivation, behavior.
   2. Formulate an approach to playing an assigned character role
   3. Oral reports on theme, subtext, plot, historical and social influences.
   4. A written daily actor's journal to include notes given by director, inspirational ideas, peer comments and suggestions.

F. TEXTS AND OTHER READINGS (TYPICAL)


2. Other: The course will require a written script given to each actor. Sometimes these scripts are originally written in manuscript format. Other times they are plays in published format.

III. DESIRED LEARNING

A. COURSE GOAL
   As a result of satisfactory completion of this course, the student should be prepared to:
identify the responsibilities of a performer in the rehearsal and performance process; demonstrate acting skills on stage in a Classical play production; apply traditional terminology and protocol in a stage production.

B. STUDENT LEARNING GOALS

Mastery of the following learning goals will enable the student to achieve the overall course goal.

1. **Required Learning Goals**

   Upon satisfactory completion of this course, the student will be able to:
   
   
   b. Perform acting skills that are required by a director for a specific scene.
      a. specialized skills such as improvisation, pantomime, acrobatics, stage combat, characterization.
   
   c. Demonstrate Classical acting performance skills on stage such as projection, clarity of character development, physical movement, and energy.,
   
   d. Apply traditional theatrical terminology and protocol in the context of a Classical play production.

2. **Lab Learning Goals**

   Upon satisfactory completion of the lab portion of this course, the student will be able to:
   
   a. Identify the responsibilities in rehearsal and performance of a Classical play.
   
   b. Demonstrate classical acting performance skills on stage before a live audience.
   
   c. Apply traditional theatrical terminology and protocol in the context of a Classical play production.

IV. METHODS OF ASSESSMENT (TYPICAL)

A. **FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT**

1. Written and oral critiques of student's written and performance assignments.

2.Peer evaluation.

B. **SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT**

1. Final project consisting of at least six individually critiqued performances for a live audience.

2. Peer evaluations of final project.

3. Production written journal.