Modesto Junior College  
Course Outline of Record  

THETR 161

I. **OVERVIEW**  
The following information will appear in the 2011 - 2012 catalog

**THETR 161 Intermediate Acting**  
3 Units

*Prerequisite:* Satisfactory completion of THETR 160.

Intensive study of character and play development through reading scripts, group improvisations and analysis of theme, content and character. Scenes from published plays will be rehearsed and performed with a culminating final public performance. Includes preparation of dramatic/comedic material and actor psychology for auditions and scenework.

Field trips might be required.  
(A-F Only) Lecture /Lab  
Transfer: (CSU, UC) General Education: (MJC-GE: Activities ) (CSU-GE: C1 )

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. Improvisational exercises  
      i. Ensemble  
      ii. Character  
      iii. Pacing  
      iv. Believability  
   
   b. Scene study  
   
   c. Character analysis  
   
   d. Play readings and analysis  
   
   e. Scene selection and organization  
   
   f. Memorization  
   
   g. Breakdown of motivational units in a scene  
   
   h. Audition prep  
      i. Audition pieces to be presented in class and at Humanities Theatre Arts  
      ii. Rehearsal for class and public performance  

2. **Required Lab Content:**
a. Group vocal and physical warmup
b. Articulation exercises
c. Imagination/character exercises
d. Improvisational work
e. Ensemble work
f. Run-through of scenes/monologues
g. Critiques of work-in-progress
h. Individual and group coaching
i. Performances
j. Feedback

3. **Recommended Content:**

   a. Play Performances; attendance at on-campus and off-campus productions for critical evaluation

B. **ENROLLMENT RESTRICTIONS**

1. **Prerequisites**

   Satisfactory completion of THETR 160.

2. **Requisite Skills**

   *Before entering the course, the student will be able to:*

   a. Define the various elements of the actor's art
   b. Employ basic principles of vocal and physical projection and communication
   c. Interpret stage composition and blocking
   d. Analyze a script in text and performance
   e. Apply strategies for creating a role
   f. Develop techniques for judging theatrical productions on the basis of acting, directing, design and script.
   g. Distinguish the phenomenon of collaborative creativity and responsibility
   h. Recall lines
   i. Perform a monologue

C. **HOURS AND UNITS**

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<th>INST METHOD</th>
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<th>UNITS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lect</td>
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D. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION (TYPICAL)
Instructors of the course might conduct the course using the following methods:

1. Lecture, discussion, reading from periodicals or text on theatre and writing
2. Private rehearsal with instructor and/or acting partner
3. Attendance at college and professional theatre
4. Conferences with instructor concerning skill level in acting

E. ASSIGNMENTS (TYPICAL)

1. EVIDENCE OF APPROPRIATE WORKLOAD FOR COURSE UNITS
Time spent on coursework in addition to hours of instruction (lecture hours)
   a. Character analysis, 2-3 per term
   b. Daily rehearsal
   c. Daily show prep
   d. Daily memorization of lines
   e. One journal, per term

2. EVIDENCE OF CRITICAL THINKING
Assignments require the appropriate level of critical thinking
   1. Assignment: Develop four traits in developing character psychology.
      a. History
      b. Motivation
      c. Obstacles
      d. Goals
   2. Assignment: Distinguish four modes of assessment in developing character physically.
      a. Age
      b. Environmental circumstances
      c. Mental/Physical Health
      d. Height/Weight

F. TEXTS AND OTHER READINGS (TYPICAL)

III. DESIRED LEARNING
A. COURSE GOAL
As a result of satisfactory completion of this course, the student should be prepared to:

expand basic acting skills with a greater emphasis on character development; express authentic emotion through breath, body, and voice focused towards intensive scene study and performance; identify key elements in character psychology, sensory recall, ensemble and stage composition; and analyze character, role dynamics, and script for believable interpretation of character, time and place.

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:

a. Employ basic theatre techniques including, stage blocking, movement, vocabulary and role preparation.

b. Practice sensory and emotional recall constructed for motivational character framework.

c. Interpret two contrasting character monologues appropriate for professional acting auditions.

d. Practice oral reading skills.

e. Understand the collaborative art and creativity of the rehearsal and performance process.

f. Analyze a script, verbally and/or in writing, in terms of theme, character and breakdown into motivational units.

g. Perform publicly with assurance.

h. Demonstrate critical language for evaluating class performances verbally and/or in writing, as well as those of college and professional theatre offerings.

2. Lab Learning Goals
Upon satisfactory completion of the lab portion of this course, the student will be able to:

a. Move effectively through time and space understanding pace, weight and direction in connection to group improvisations and ensemble.

b. Develop an adaptable and open character framework that changes moment to moment according to group dynamics.

IV. METHODS OF ASSESSMENT (TYPICAL)

A. FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT
1. Tests and quizzes
2. Monologues
3. Scene performances
4. Written exercises

B. SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT
1. Character analysis
2. Journals on the Performance Process
3. Scene work
4. Performances
5. Improvisational exercises
6. Play analysis