



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	THEA
Course Number:	185
Descriptive Title:	Introduction to Stage Lighting
Division:	Fine Arts
Department:	Theatre
Course Disciplines:	Drama, Stagecraft, Theater Arts
Catalog Description:	This course emphasizes the operation of stage lighting equipment, planning and rigging of lighting units, operation of control systems and related equipment, light sources, stage electricity, color in light, and the design of stage lighting. Students must attend selected theatre events at El Camino College Center for the Arts.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	2
Hours Laboratory (per week):	3
Outside Study Hours:	4
Total Course Hours:	90
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	Fall 1993
Transfer UC:	Yes
Effective Date:	Fall 1995
General Education: ECC	
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	
Term:	
Other:	
IGETC:	
Term:	
Other:	
CalGETC:	

Term:	
Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	SLO #1 Types of Stage Lighting Instruments Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to distinguish and categorize the various types of stage lighting instruments. SLO #2 Theatrical Lighting Instruments Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to assess and apply safe theater practices to hang and focus a theatrical lighting instrument. SLO #3 Lighting Designs for a Scene Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to analyze a play script for the purposes of producing a lighting design for a scene.
Course Objectives:	1. Describe the lighting sources used in the theatre from a historical perspective, identify the most common sources of light in the theatre and name and describe the various parts of theatrical lamps and lighting units. 2. Compare and contrast lighting units for the purpose of selecting units for a specific operation, set up the lighting units and program the control systems and identify and recall the elements of electricity such as the volt, the amp, and the watt. 3. List the types of good and poor conductors and insulators, differentiate between the function of conductors and insulators and list and explain the different types of current and electrical systems used in theatrical, motion picture, television, and concert events. 4. Diagram the path of light as stated in the various types of reflection and refraction according to the physical laws that govern it and the path of light as refracted through theatrical lighting units. 5. Describe the origins of scenic projections from a historical view point, identify the various types used in the theatre today and assess and appraise the need for scenic projections in given productions. 6. Describe the concept of dimming lights and intensity control from an historical point of view, compare the various types of dimming systems and their uses and diagram the path of electrical power through different types of dimmers. 7. Identify the primary and secondary colors in light and the results of mixing colors in light using colored filters and regulating intensity. 8. Analyze and compare the color changes of a typical sunset by observation in nature, the types of color mixing available in light and create various colors with light in the laboratory using different types of lighting units. 9. Describe the application of color psychology and how it applies to lighting design in the theatre and analyze and compare the various types of color media available to the lighting designer today. 10. Analyze plays for the purpose of creating a lighting design, play scripts for production lighting needs and interpret the lighting needs for the production and design a plan. 11. Create a theatrical drawing to scale of the theatre and the lighting design solution.
Major Topics:	Lecture Topics I. Light Sources A. Historical perspectives of lighting sources used in the theatre B. Common sources of light in the theatre C. Parts of theatrical lamps and lighting units

- D. Selecting units for a specific operation
- E. Lighting units and control systems for lab projects and current departmental productions

II. Elements of Electricity

- A. The volt, the amp, and the watt
- B. Good and poor conductors and insulators
- C. Function of conductors and insulators in different types of current and electrical systems used in theatrical, motion picture, television, and concert events
- D. Types of electrical service and electrical circuits

III. Projected Scenery

- A. Scenic projections from a historical view point
- B. Scenic projections currently used in the theatre
- C. Scenic projections in a given production

IV. Intensity Control

- A. Dimming lights and intensity control from an historical point of view
- B. Historical methods of intensity control
- C. Types of dimming systems and their uses
- D. Electrical power through different types of dimmers

V. Color in Light

- A. Primary and secondary colors in light
- B. Mixing colors in light using colored filters and regulating intensity
- C. Color changes of a typical sunset by observation in nature
- D. Types of color mixing available in light
- E. Application of color psychology and how it applies to lighting design in the theatre
- F. Types of color media currently available to the lighting designer

Lab Topics

I. Light Sources

- A. Identify common sources of light in the theatre
- B. Assemble and disassemble theatrical lamps, lighting units, and cables
- C. Select and installing units for a specific operation
- D. Install lighting units and control systems for lab projects and current departmental productions

II. Elements of Electricity

- A. Demonstrate understanding of safe practices while handling electrical equipment
- B. Study the function of conductors and insulators in different types of current and electrical systems used in theatrical, motion picture, television, and concert events
- C. Set up different types of electrical services and electrical circuits

III. Study and implementation of Light Design

- A. Craft a lighting plot based of a prompt
- B. Select specific lighting fixtures and install them
- C. Select gel color, gobos, and focus selected lighting fixtures

IV. Intensity Control

- A. Study historic methods of intensity control (class trip to the Marsee auditorium)
- B. Work with types of dimming systems and demonstrate their uses
- C. Run electrical power through different types of dimmers

V. Color in Light

- A. Experimenting with mixing colors in light using colored filters and regulating intensity
- B. Study types of color mixing available in light

	C. Demonstrate application of color psychology and how it applies to lighting design in the theatre D. Study and experiment with types of color media currently available to the lighting designer
Total Lecture Hours:	36
Total Laboratory Hours:	54
Total Hours:	90
A.1. Primary Methods of Evaluation (Part 1 - CCN courses only):	
A.2. Primary Method of Evaluation (Part 2 - all courses; choose one):	3) Skills demonstration
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	Prepare a critical review focusing on the lighting elements presented in a production by the El Camino Center for the Arts. The review should be at least two to four pages, type written, double spaced, and with proper margins. Offer supportive evidence as to why and how the lighting design worked or did not work for the production.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	Evaluate the stylistic scenic and lighting concepts appropriate to the production of a selected singer or mutable set play. Formulate a design solution and develop a light plot and lighting paperwork.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	Prepare a lighting cue list used in a selected production. Define, translate, and interpret the lighting needed for the production. Formulate a design solution and develop a master light cue sheet for the selected scene.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Essay Exams, Reading Reports, Term or Other Papers, Written Homework
Instructional Methods:	Demonstration, Lab, Lecture, Multimedia presentations
If other:	Critiques
Work Outside of Class:	Answer questions, Observation of or participation in an activity related to course content (such as theatre event, museum, concert, debate, meeting), Problem solving activity, Required reading, Skill practice, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	Parker & Wolf. <u>Scene Design and Stage Lighting</u> . Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2002. (Discipline Standard)
Alternative Texts:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	Selected plays
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite:	
Category:	
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites	

and corequisites in this box.	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable	
Requisite course:	
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Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	Linda S. Fossi
Date:	01/02/1986
Original Board Approval Date:	
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Gloria Garayua
Date:	03/11/2025
Last Board Approval Date:	06/26/2025
Effective Term:	FA 2026