

THTR 424: READERS THEATRE NONCREDIT FOR OLDER ADULTS

Foothill College Course Outline of Record

Heading	Value
Effective Term:	Fall 2026
Units:	0
Hours:	3 lecture, 3 laboratory per week (72 total per quarter)
Advisory:	Recommend successful completion of THTR 20A or 420A or equivalent.
Degree & Credit Status:	Non-Degree-Applicable Non-Credit Course
Foothill GE:	Non-GE
Transferable:	None
Grade Type:	Non-Credit Course (Receives no Grade)
Repeatability:	Unlimited Repeatability
Formerly:	NCAL 419K

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students, through personal involvement, gain experiential knowledge of the many processes necessary for preparing and performing a staged dramatic reading from theatre or literature -auditioning and casting, rehearsal process, performance standards, and post production assessment.
- Through critical thinking, problem solving, and teamwork practices, students challenge, synthesize and develop skills pertaining to the designated assignment in performing a live or streamed theatrical performance towards familiarizing themselves with the industry structures and experiences performance.

Description

This noncredit course is targeted towards older adults. Preparation and performance of individual and group readings from various types of literature, especially play scripts, employing a range of vocal skills, and presented in a dramatic context.

Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Select, prepare, deliver and critique monologue, dialogue, and choral readings from various types and genres of literature, with increasing levels of sophistication.
- Apply a variety of fundamental vocal techniques to literature selected.
- Identify and synthesize a selection of literary materials into a coherent, unified dramatic presentation.
- Distinguish and demonstrate processes of transforming non-dramatic materials into a dramatic context.
- Recognize and differentiate between the forms of oral interpretation, readers theatre and "acted" oral work.

- Value dramatic literature from historically rich and diverse multi-ethnic and multi-cultural sources.
- Recognize the interdisciplinary nature of readers theatre, combining literature of many genres, music, and humanities.

Course Content

- Exposure to various samples of readers theatre
- Conscious attention to multi-cultural sources of literature
- Lecture presentations regarding form and style of readers theatre processes
- Minimum of four dramatic readings each quarter
- Participation in rehearsal and performance of a readers theatre production composed around an organizing principle:
 - One author's works
 - A particular literary genre, e.g., poetry, drama, narrative
 - A single major work
 - Thematic organization
 - Literature exploring a specific cultural or ethnic source
- Fundamental vocal exercises
 - Articulation
 - Projection
 - Expressive skills
 - Sight reading

Lab Content

- Cooperative rehearsal of class assignments and projects.
- Individual and partner exploration and self-analysis of concepts and exercises introduced in class.

Special Facilities and/or Equipment

- Reading stands, room with theatre-style seating for performance.
- For online instruction, regular weekly internet access for online content.

Method(s) of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation may include but are not limited to the following:

Graded class reading assignments
Written assembly and analysis of literary materials
Final group reading project

Method(s) of Instruction

Methods of Instruction may include but are not limited to the following:

Lecture
Discussion
Cooperative learning exercises
Oral presentations
Laboratory
Demonstration

Representative Text(s) and Other Materials

Kleinau, Marion L., and Janet Larsen McHughes. Theatres for Literature. 2003.

Yordon, Judy. Experimental Theatre: Creating and Staging Texts. 2001.

Although these texts are older than the suggested "5 years or newer" standard, they remain seminal texts in this area of study.

Literature and play scripts selected to assure exposure to the best classical and contemporary material

Types and/or Examples of Required Reading, Writing, and Outside of Class Assignments

1. Selected play scripts and appropriate background reading as assigned by the instructor each quarter. The play scripts chosen each term will not repeat within a minimum of five years. Additional texts are chosen based on the specific performance projects.

Discipline(s)

Theater Arts