



Technical Theatre I and II

Course Scope and Goals 2004-2005

Course Scope:

The Technical Theatre I curriculum at Las Vegas Academy will introduce the many aspects of technical theatre and theatrical production, and acquaint the student with the craft skills necessary to produce live theatre. Students will receive basic instruction in scenery construction and rigging, stage lighting, sound, properties, costumes and backstage responsibilities. Strong emphasis will be placed on knowledge of safety practices, theatre terminology and backstage procedure. Students will be required to assume technical responsibilities for various productions produced by the Performing Arts departments. Tech Theatre majors will also be required to learn basic drafting for the theatre, including orthographic projection, elevations, and simple perspective drawings, and develop their knowledge base of dramatic literature. In addition, LVA students have the unique opportunity to learn from industry professionals.

Technical Theatre II students will continue the development of the craft skills in theatrical production, assume management of stage crews, and be required to work backstage on LVA productions in leadership roles.

Course Goals:

1. Learn the various responsibilities and the organizational hierarchy of the technical staff positions in theatre production
2. Learn to work safely in the shops and backstage spaces
3. Develop skills in technical aspects of theatrical productions
4. Use basic hand and power tools required in technical theatre, and operate them in a consistently safe manner
5. Learn basic techniques of scenic painting
6. Interpret scenic and working drawings in practical applications
7. Learn basic drawing (drafting) techniques for the theatre, including 2D CAD
8. Identify and assemble various scenery components
9. Operate various types of backstage equipment
10. Assist in acquisition, construction and maintenance of theatrical properties and costumes
11. Identify and use stage lighting and sound equipment
12. Examine the use of computers in the theatrical environment
13. Use acquired skills in practical applications in theatrical productions
14. Examine the many career possibilities in the technical aspects of performing arts
15. View and technically evaluate, in writing, various theatre productions
16. Read and evaluate the various forms and styles of dramatic literature
17. Gain and understanding of theatre as an artistic approach to the study of the Human Condition.

In addition to these goals, the Technical Theatre II student will:

18. Learn more advanced drawing (drafting) techniques for the theatre, including elevations and perspective drawings, and simple CAD (computer-assisted drawing) for the theatre
19. Design specific technical elements and integrate them into a total theatrical production concept
20. Examine and participate in the management responsibilities of crew leadership
21. Examine and participate in stage and house management responsibilities
22. Examine contemporary elements in theatrical design and special effects
23. Gain a greater understanding and knowledge base of dramatic literature as it pertains to technical theatre.



Technical Theatre I and II

Course Expectations 2004-2005

Grading and Evaluation Procedures

The grading procedure is based on a simple point system. Each nine-week grading period has an approximate total value of 500 points. For every assignment or project there will be a consistent number of points available. If you complete the assignments and willingly participate in the construction or other lab projects, you will receive points based on the correctness and quality of your work, including proper grammar, spelling and punctuation. Spell check is a requirement! If you are absent, or otherwise fail to complete an assignment/project/etc. when it is due, points will be deducted, unless special arrangements are made with me **in advance**. It is important to keep me informed about any problems or conflicts you may encounter, so that you don't fall behind.

In addition to assignments and projects, there will be quizzes during the grading period. These will be announced in advance, and will be directly linked to the final examinations, which mainly cover terminology, procedures, technique and **safety**. Majors will be required to read up to three plays from the departmental reading list each nine weeks, and write a short play report on each. Freshmen will be required to work 20 hrs/qtr on departmental business, Sophmores 30 hrs/qtr, Juniors and Seniors 40 hrs/qtr.

Technical Theatre II students will also be required to lead crews, work more independently and assist the instructor with training of Tech I students.

POINT VALUES

Assignments	Variable (usually 25-75 pts. each)
Play Reports	50 pts.
Construction Projects	Variable (usually 25-75 pts. each)
Quizzes	20-25 pts. Each
Portfolio Assignments	Variable (usually 25-75 pts. each)
Special Projects	Variable (usually 25-75 pts. each)
Final Examinations	80-100 pts.
Theatre Hours	4 pts. per hour
Participation	8 pts. per school day excluding exam days

- Semester grades are figured on a percentage of points earned, 45% per quarter and 10% exam.
- 50% will be deducted for every complete assignment/project that is handed in late. Incomplete work will not be accepted.
- All assignments must be handed in by the Friday before the end of each grading period.
- All work handed back will be saved in your LVA Classroom Assignment Log and Morgue. This log must be maintained and turned in at the end of each grading period.

Attendance And Eligibility

Attendance is extremely important. There will be others in class that will be depending on you to do your part. **You will lose your participation points for every day you are absent, regardless of reason, after two absences.** Become familiar with the CCSD Attendance Policy.

You are a representative of Academy Theatre. You are an important and vital part of the theatre department. Your eligibility WILL BE SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZED if you are caught smoking, drinking or using illegal substances, or otherwise become a disciplinary problem. See the Eligibility Rules posted in your classroom and Theatre Department Handbook.

You will be expected to **work hard, be positive, and make sacrifices for your craft**. If you are not willing to do this, you should re-evaluate your reasons for being here. If you have extenuating circumstances, talk to me. I am a kind, sympathetic person, but I cannot read your mind.

Technical Theatre students will be using the Scene Shop and Black Box for numerous lighting labs, construction projects, and providing technical support for theatrical and other department productions. You will have opportunity; you must provide the desire. This program is only as effective as your commitment. I wish you the best of luck at the Academy! And remember, my door is always open; if you have a problem or suggestion, I will always make time to listen.



Technical Theatre Program

Classroom/Laboratory Rules and Procedures

- ⇒ **RESPONSIBILITY:** We have several places in which we will be working; the Black Box Theatre, the Performing Arts Center (Mainstage), the Scene Shop, and the Tech Theatre Studio (V09). You must always report to the studio unless other plans have been made in advance, or there is a sign posted to go elsewhere. Please be respectful of others, and be quiet in the hallways. Disruption of other classes, or wandering around the building is forbidden.
- ⇒ **UNITY:** The Technical Theatre program is a part of the Theatre Department; it is not a separate program. It is up to all of us to foster a positive, healthy work environment. Technicians and actors will work together in the spirit of ensemble and cooperation. We depend on each other!
- ⇒ **ACCOUNTABILITY:** The instructor dismisses class, not the bell. If you ever leave class early, or without permission, you will be considered truant. I will make every effort to call for clean-up, **but it is ultimately your responsibility to clean up your mess in time for your next class.** Your area/project **must be cleaned up thoroughly before you are excused.**
- ⇒ **SAFETY FIRST!** YOU MAY NOT operate *any tool, hand or power*, without passing a safety test for *each tool*. Your parent/guardian must also provide written permission for you to use power tools. DO NOT operate the fly system or any other backstage equipment until I have approved your use and you have direct permission from the TD, TM or other adult supervisor. All students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with all rules of common sense and safety.
- ⇒ **DRESS CODE:** Follow the Theatre Department Dress Code as it is laid out in the LVA Student Handbook. ***Those not appropriately dressed will lose participation points.***
- ⇒ **ABSENCES/TARDIES:** More than two tardies per nine weeks will result in lunch detention and/or other disciplinary action. If you are late for class, you are responsible for signing the Tardy Sheet; otherwise, you will be marked officially absent. If you are ill, **you must call in before 7am** to 799-2344, or e-mail me, to let me know that you will not be in class, or you will lose participation points for the day.
- ⇒ **CELL PHONES/PLD's:** You may, according to CCSD Policy, have a cell phone in your possession, which you may use during lunch and after school only. If a your cell phone rings during class, you will lose your attendance points for that day. No exceptions. You MAY NOT listen to your PLD (personal listening device) during class or any work call. You MAY listen to computer audio by headphones while working *independently* at the computer, provided you do not disturb others.
- ⇒ **CLEAN UP:** All students are expected to clean up their messes, and participate in clean up periods as they occur during the day. Excessive sloth will result in loss of participation points.
- ⇒ **PREPAREDNESS:** You are expected to come prepared to work. You will **always need** your Technical Theatre Notebook and a pencil or pen (black or blue ink—no funky colors). EVERY DAY.
- ⇒ **LAB FEES, ETC.:** There may be a \$30.00 lab fee assessed for your materials and consumables, or you may be required to purchase these items yourself.
- ⇒ **PARTICIPATION:** Every theatre major is required to see and write about every Academy Theatre production. You will be required to see theatre outside the Las Vegas Academy.
- ⇒ There is NO FOOD OR DRINK ALLOWED IN THE AUDITORIUM, DESIGN STUDIO, BLACK BOX THEATRE OR ANY OTHER CARPETED AREA ON CAMPUS. This is a NO SMOKING campus, and substance abuse will not be tolerated!
- ⇒ **Willful and deliberate destruction of any school property is against the law!** and morally and ethically reprehensible. Any individual caught defacing or stealing from this facility, or any individual on the premises, will be severely disciplined within the school system, and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.
- ⇒ All computer use must **relate directly to the educational experience**, and be in accordance with the CCSD Acceptable Use Policy. No recreational use of the computers is allowed.
- ⇒ The art and craft of theatre depends on mutual respect and trust within the ensemble. Backbiting, foul teasing, sexual harrassment, ageism, or any other action or language that belittles or slanders others will not be tolerated. The theatre area is a Hate-Free Zone.

There are more detailed explanations of, and additional information about, our department expectations in the *Academy Theatre Handbook*, by which you and your parents/guardians agree to abide.