DRA 110 Introduction to Theatre

3 hours, 3 credits

The course provides an introduction to the study of drama and theatre, including playwriting, directing, acting, design, and technical theatre. Historical influences and production elements and values are explored. The course is designed to enhance the student's enjoyment and understanding of the theatrical experience. Plays, performances, films, demonstrations and lectures acquaint the students with the history and techniques of the theatrical arts. There may be some opportunity for student performance. No experience in dramatic production is required.

DRA 115 Improvisational Theatre

3 hours, 3 credits

An experimental workshop devoted to the exploration of theatre techniques in the traditions established by Grotowski, the Living Theatre and the Open Theatre, which include role-playing, theatre games, story theatre, street theatre and such related arts as dance, song, puppetry, etc. Students are required to keep a resource book to help develop imaginative material from their own histories, fantasies, dreams, and interests. The course culminates in a performance of a short original work created, directed and acted by the students.

DRA 185 Drama in Production

3 hours, 3 credits
Participation in John Jay production as a performer and backstage as a technician requires substantial contribution of time, talent and cooperation nights and weekends.

**DRA 201 Introduction to Playwriting**

*3 hours, 3 credits*

This course introduces students to the art and craft of writing for the stage. As a workshop, the course will examine dramatic writing as a storytelling medium and encourage students to work out unique solutions to challenges confronting playwrights of a one-act play in light of historical, theoretical, and critical materials. The course emphasizes the technical elements of dramatic writing, the vocabulary of the writer, and the nature of the writing experience, from germinal idea to marketing the completed script. Students will be required to complete a series of exercises culminating in the writing of a one-act play. The course will conclude with staged readings of the one-act plays before an audience.

**Prerequisites:** ENG 101

**DRA 213 Acting I**

*3 hours, 3 credits*

The art of acting. Units include scene study and improvisations dealing with contemporary themes and problems. Practice in the use of voice and body as instruments of expression. Improvement of the student's skill and ease in playing roles. Student is encouraged to
participate in the major production.

**Prerequisites:** ENG 101

**DRA 214 Acting II**

**3 hours, 3 credits**

The basic acting problems of analyzing and creating a role. Units include script analysis; exercises in creating plausibility and consistency in characterization; exploration of the areas of motivation and action; and introduction to acting problems in the mounting of a production (blocking, voice projection, etc.). Student is encouraged to participate in the major production.

**Prerequisite:** DRA 115 or DRA 213

**DRA 217 Latina/o Theatre in the USA**

(Same course as LLS 217 and SPA 217)

**3 hours, 3 credits**

This course exposes students to the major acting techniques and styles from the wide spectrum of Latina/o dramaturgy in the United States. Special attention is given to how the creative and literary components of each text contribute to typically Latina/o forms of acting and how these reflect the unique social and political experience of being Latina/o in the United States. The course combines discussion of the specific texts and acting styles with an examination of both the creative and literary components. Course requirements include reading of selected plays in English,
performance of scenes in class, and students will perform their own works to be showcased at the end of the semester.

**DRA 225 Criminal Justice in the Theatre**

3 hours, 3 credits

Investigates the portrayal of violence, conflict, crime, criminals, and justice on stage and screen and how such representations shape society's perception of criminal justice issues; also explores uses of theatrical techniques in conflict intervention, criminal justice rehabilitation, and law enforcement training. Students will read plays, attend theatre productions, and may engage in playwriting and role play as part of their coursework.

**DRA 230 African-American Theatre**

(Same course as AAD 230)

3 hours, 3 credits

A study of the development of the African-American theatre considering selected works of such playwrights as Langston Hughes, Lorraine Hansberry, James Baldwin, Imamu Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones), Ed Billings, Charles Gordone, Douglas Turner Ward, Adrienne Kennedy, Ron Milner, Ben Caldwell, Philip Hayes Dean, Richard Wesley and Joseph A. Walker, as well as such production companies as the Spirit House Players and Movers, the Negro Ensemble Company and the Afro-American Studio Theatre. Plays focusing on such areas as ethnic identity and lifestyles and
nationalism will be examined.

**DRA 233 Sociodrama I**

**3 hours, 3 credits**

The course introduces students to the fundamentals of sociodrama. Sociodrama is a theater-based methodology widely used today in group problem solving and consensus building. Students explore the theoretical bases of sociodrama through improvisation, role play and theater games as they create scenarios around social issues relevant to the group. Sociodrama techniques, such as freeze frame, role reversal, mirror and sculpting are taught as a means of exploring multiple perspectives to solving problems and assessing options.

*Prerequisites:* ENG 101

**DRA 245 Women in Theatre**

**3 hours, 3 credits**

A study of women as characters in plays, as playwrights and as directors, producers, designers, etc. Consideration of women's situations and personalities as exemplified in the drama and in their achievements in professional theatre.

*Prerequisites:* ENG 101

**DRA 301 Directing**

**3 hours, 3 credits**

Introduction to the directing of plays: script analysis, coordination of
production elements, consideration of styles and composition, actor relations, rehearsals, blocking and mounting the play.

**Prerequisites:** ENG 101

**DRA 310 Topics in Theatre**

*3 hours, 3 credits*

This course is a practical and theoretical introduction to Applied Theatre. Theatre practitioners in Applied Theatre develop and perform plays in their local communities in response to injustice and pressing social issues. Unlike the theatre of entertainment, the purpose of this theatre genre is activism, civic engagement, consciousness raising and healing. This course will focus on the Theatre of the Oppressed, Playback Theatre, Prison Theatre and Sociodrama. Activities will include games and exercises that will culminate in an original theatre piece devised for audience participation.

**Prerequisites:** ENG 101

**DRA 325 Drama Techniques in Crisis Intervention**

*3 hours, 3 credits*

Seminar for instructors who will be training police recruits. Techniques of role-playing in drama in creating an improvised family crisis with which a police officer must deal.

**Prerequisites:** ENG 201