


Beginning Drama Course Syllabus

Course Content


This course is designed to meet the California content standards for Advanced Theatre and the F requirement for college. As such, this course will focus on performance and evaluation of performances, the basic elements of drama and tech theatre as well as the historical development of theatre. Students will be writing in class on a regular basis by keeping an actor's journal. Students can also expect quizzes and tests on course content. There is also a large performance element in this course; students will be expected to memorize and perform scenes, monologues and improv. in front of the class. Students who do not actively participate in performance activities cannot pass this course.



Materials

- ◆ Binder paper
- ◆ Blue or black pens, pencils
- ◆ Highlighters (2 colors)
- ◆ Composition notebook

Classroom Rules



1. Follow all school rules.
2. Be on time.
3. Be prepared to work by having all your materials and being focused.
4. Stay on task.
5. Be respectful of others.
6. Follow directions the first time.
7. Electronics are only to be used with teacher's permission. Unauthorized use will result in the item being confiscated and turned in to the office.
8. Students must request permission to go into other rooms.

Consequences


School Discipline policies will be enforced.

Possible consequences are verbal warnings, seat changes, conferences and work packets. For continued behavioral issues, school counselors and/or assistant principals may be involved and/or suspension from class.

In the event of extreme behavior which disrupts the learning environment, students will be sent immediately to the assistant principal.

Units of Study

Theatrical vocabulary	Scene studies
Improvisation	Play studies
Pantomime	Set Design
Character analysis	Blocking
Scene writing	Audition techniques
Performance analysis	Body language
Parts of the stage	Theatre careers
Theatre history	Monologues
Body positions	Play components
Play components	Voice



TA Expectations: have good attendance, complete assigned tasks in a timely fashion, and do not interfere

Tardy Policy

A student is late if s/he is not in their seat when the bell begins ringing. On the rare occasion that a student is late, s/he should enter quietly, fill out the tardy sheet and wait quietly in the back of the room until the teacher indicates to join the class.

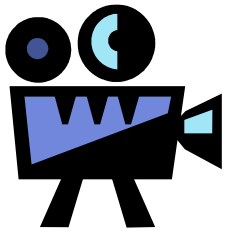
1st – 4th – fill out tardy sheet, student misses participating in class warm-ups

On the 5th and subsequent tardies, the school tardy policy will be enforced.

Homework & Performances

School Board homework policy (BP6154): Students will typically average 2 hours of homework per night.

1. Students must turn in work or perform on time.
2. An assignment is due when collected.
3. Late work & late performances are not accepted.
4. In drama, homework will usually consist of:
 - ~ Learning lines ~ reading a play/scene
 - ~ Studying ~ Rehearsing w/ partners



Cheating

Using someone else's work and claiming it as your own is unacceptable. This includes everything from copying someone else's homework, up to and including plagiarism and copying off the internet. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated.

For all instances of cheating, the student will receive a zero on the assignment, a referral to Assistant Principal for documentation of the event, and parent contact. Multiple instances of cheating may result in students being denied academic honors and scholarships.

Make-up Work

1. Work may be made up for excused absences only. Students attending In-House Suspension must turn in work immediately after school to receive credit and inquire about any assigned classwork. Work for unexcused absences and suspensions cannot be made up.
2. It is the student's responsibility to find out what work was missed. This can be accomplished by checking the calendar online or in class.
3. It is the student's responsibility to arrange a time to make up tests after school.
4. Students have the same number of days they have excused absences to complete assignments given while they were gone. Work assigned prior to absence is due upon return to class.
5. If a student must miss a scheduled in-class performance, it can only be made up if a parent calls before 8 am on the day the performance is to occur. A message may be left on voicemail, no emails will be accepted.

Quarter Grades

Every assignment will be worth a certain number of points. The quarter grade is based on the total number of points earned in the quarter.

A = 90-100 % B = 80-89 % C = 70-79 %
D = 60 – 69 % F = 0 – 59 %

1st Semester

First Quarter 40%
Second Quarter 40%
Monologue Final 20%

2nd Semester

Third Quarter 40%
Fourth Quarter 40%
Monologue Final 20%

VIEW PRODUCTIONS

Students will be required attend a minimum of two productions each semester. Middle school, high school, or professional productions only. Attending additional productions may be extra credit, as approved by instructor. You may prove your attendance with an adult signed program or ticket stub. Students will write a critique of the performance. This will count as part of your final.



Attendance

The majority of this class is made up of in-class activities and discussions; attendance is vital or the student's grade will suffer. Most performances are done as a group, and are scheduled, so it is imperative that all students be there, or the group's grade may be affected. It is very hard to rehearse or perform if a student is missing. If a student has been absent for 2 out of 3 days of rehearsal time, the performance can't possibly be as polished. Students who are absent need to set up rehearsal time with their group after school. The class is structured so that participation, audience behavior and performance are the most important aspect of the class. Failure to participate and behave properly when others are performing will result in failing the class. Since most of what we do is in-class activities and performances, if you are not here, you obviously cannot do these things. The bottom line is, to pass, BE IN CLASS, DO YOUR BEST AND BE WELL BEHAVED!

BE RESPONSIBLE !

** Drama students often get to choose their own material to read, report on and perform, so students need to make appropriate choices. Any student presenting inappropriate material will receive a zero on the assignment and a phone call will be made home.

** I bring in many personal supplies for students to use. Students are responsible for any items they use and will be fined for any lost or damaged items.

Daily Procedures

As you well know, this class is not just "playing games". While theatre is a lot of fun, and we do play games, there is a great deal of work involved. The games and activities we do are designed to help actors develop their skills; after all, not using your talent properly is as bad as not having any talent at all! Regular class activities will include:

- * Journal writing
- * Lecture/instruction
- * Note taking
- * Improvisation
- * Play and script reading
- * Scene / character study
- * Play & scene rehearsal
- * Performance
- * Live & video performance evaluations



Play Reports / Presentations

1. Students will be reading at least 2 plays per quarter.
2. Plays which are used in class may not be used; this includes plays such Shakespeare's plays, Our Town, Death of a Salesman, Fences, The Crucible, Harvey, Arsenic & Old Lace, A Doll's House, etc. Credit will not be given for reports on these plays.
3. Plays must be pre-approved by the teacher.

EXTRA CREDIT !

Students may complete one extra credit project per quarter, where s/he may earn up to 100 points, depending on the quality of the project. Projects must be approved by the instructor in advance, and be turned in 2 weeks prior to the end of the quarter. Projects will be presented by the student in front of the class. A list of projects is available on the class webpage. This is how the student may make up any points missed from in-class activities that were completed during the student's excused absence. In addition, students may attend WHS play performances or other performances announced by the instructor to receive extra credit.



Beginning Drama Course Syllabus Signature Sheet



Student Last Name

Student First Name

Period

(Parents and Students, please read together and check all that apply.)

- ☐ [] We have read and understand the requirements and expectations for this class.
- ☐ [] We have visited your web page, and responded to your survey, please give our student 10 extra credit points!
- ☐ [] There are some things that you should be aware of about this student, please read the back of this page for more information.
- ☐ [] We have concerns about the following video(s) being shown in class, please contact me. (Please list videos on back.)
- ☐ [] We have access to some items that may be of use to your class (props, lumber, material, costumes, papers, tools, office supplies, etc.) (Please list on back.)
- ☐ [] We have experience, or know someone who has experience in areas such as sewing, set/prop building or field-trip organizing, etc, who would be willing to help. (Please list.)

Parent's Signature

Student's Signature

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Parent's E-mail address: _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT - Write at least 10 words for each question.

1. The best fine arts experience I ever had was... _____

2. My current career goal is... _____

3. What I really hope to get out of this class is... _____

4. In my spare time, my interests include... _____

5. Activities that I have that would conflict with drama outside of class are... _____

6. One thing I enjoyed learning in school was...(tell why) _____

