

Advanced Theatre SYLLABUS 2020 - 2021



Course Identification: Advanced Theatre (Drama III & IV)

Course Instructor: Mr. Durspek & Mrs. Hadidi

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Room: Auditorium

Textbook: Theater: Art in Action

Course Description: *Prerequisite: Drama I & II or teacher permission*

This is a yearlong advanced course in drama and theatre literacy. Vocabulary, pantomime, voice, body movement, improvisation, Acting, character development, play analysis, play writing, production techniques, and directing will be emphasized. Play reading, written play analysis, and theatre attendance will be required. Exercises and study will culminate in district competition performance of a one-act play, and various dramatic and humorous ensembles, monologues, duet scenes, technical entries, and musical solos or ensembles.

Writing Supplies: One notebook/journal, black and/or blue ink pens, pencils, a highlighter & Binder.

Dress Attire: Students must wear **non-restrictive clothing** that allows them to move freely throughout all dramatic activities. Wearing restrictive clothing is NOT an excuse for not being able to perform in assigned scene work or performing naked. As a result, it will affect a student's grade.

Attendance: is an integral part of your course work. You are expected to attend class on time, and participate in class activities. You must contact me if you are going to be absent on a day you are scheduled to perform. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the entire assignment. **If you have an unexcused absence, you will receive a zero for participation for that day. Make sure to have all absences EXCUSED (note or parent call to your admin office)!**

Participation: includes acting, rehearsing, and listening intently to both instructor and classmates. Your behavior as an audience member is also evaluated and graded. Participation includes exercises, improvisation, acting skills, rehearsing, reading, memorizing, homework assignments, and online research.

Class Design: This class is a combination of Level III and IV theatre students. It will often be subdivided between those two groups for the purposes of fulfilling the educational obligations and expectations of both. Some exercises will be integrated involving both groups, while others will be divided. Many exercises, performances, or projects will have distinct and separate expectations and skill sets or features embedded within the assignments.

Curriculum, Assignments, and Projects

Theater Appreciation

- Nature of Theater
- Essence of Theater
- History of Theater
- Role of Theater

Acting: Voice and Movement

- Improvisation – Theater games, characters, and scenes.
- Oral Interpretation/Improvisation and scene work with an emphasis on vocal techniques and movements.
- Monologues- Performing solo monologues each semester.
- Scenes – In class scenes and performances.
- Analyzing – classic performances from professional and acclaimed actors.

Directing

- Choosing a play and working with a script
- Director's role Style, Interpretation, Blocking, Genre, Design and Stage Composition

Playwriting

- Analyzing drama
- Writing a play
- Writing a review
- Plot elements
- Theme/Symbolism/Metaphors

Management and Business

- Roles and Careers in Theater
- Organization and Management
- Auditioning/Resumes/Casting

Theatrical Projects:

- Theater Production Reviews – Attending and writing reviews for ALL main stage productions.
- Reading and written homework assignments will be given for each unit studied as well as quizzes to assess student's knowledge.
- Journals will be checked and graded throughout the semester.
- Various performances in class
- Participation in the District 4 Thespian Festival in December, through IE's and the one act. There is a \$30 participation fee and you will be required to miss 2 days of school and attend on Saturday.
- In accordance with the State description of this class, outside time will be required. IF this presents a problem, please the instructors ASAP.

Grading Evaluation Breakdown: Grades are determined according to quality and accuracy of work. Performance grades are subjective, but will still reflect appropriate evaluation based upon known criteria.

- Standard District grading policies apply.
- Rubrics will be used for all performance assignments. Work ethic in both rehearsal and performance will formulate the student's final grade.

Homework/Late Work Policy:

- Late work** is to be avoided at the expense of your grade.
- As many of the projects or performances involve others, it is to be noted that failure to hold up your end of the assignment will be reflected in your poor grade.

It is the student's responsibility to find out what was missed because of an absence. Check with class members or me before or after school. If absent, students must make arrangements with me to make up a performance, test or quiz.

- If a student misses class, they are responsible for turning in work on the due date. you miss a class
- If rehearsal and the absence is unexcused, you will **receive a zero for the rehearsal grade.**

Theatre Decorum:

Cell phones, IPODS, calculators, electronic games or other electronic devices are NOT allowed in the theatre.

Do NOT eat, drink, chew gum, apply make-up, play cards, use ipods, cell phones, etc. in the theatre.

DO not touch any tools, props, sets, furniture, or production items without instructor approval.

Respect and support all students when they are performing and taking risks. Your grade will reflect how well you listen and support others performances. The stage is a **safe place** to explore without judgment.

- Do not enter/exit the theatre while a performance is in progress. Do not walk in front of actors, slam doors, crumple paper, move chairs, shuffle book bags, talk, etc. during a performance. Wait until there is a break.

There is NO Drama in Drama. I hate gossips. This is a family, treat each other with respect; help each other achieve their greatest potential. We are a company of players. I will not tolerate character assassination or self-promotion.

Advanced Theatre Parent Letter

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your child has elected to take Advanced Theatre. The course syllabus includes information about the course content, grading scale, behavioral expectations, discipline policy, tardy policy, and homework policy. This course is more advanced than Theatre 1 and 2 and prepares your child for competitions, auditions, and productions.

This class is an honors level class and as such will require more effort and time than the beginning Theatre classes. All students in Advanced Theatre will be **required to attend the District 4 Thespian competition in December** and will be required to come to after school rehearsals or meetings. They will also be required to attend one theatre performance per semester.

Your student has been informed of the course syllabus in its entirety, including the course requirements, but I would appreciate it if you would review the course syllabus with your child. Please keep the attached syllabus for future reference in the event that any questions arise.

I need for both you and your child to complete, sign and return this page as soon as possible. I will be communicating with you throughout the year to keep you aware of your child's progress. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Scott Durspek
Theatre 1-3 & Film
Drama Club Co-Sponsor
Thespian Troupe 1472 Sponsor

Karen Hadidi
Theatre 1-3 & Film
Drama Club Sponsor
Troupe 1472 Co-Sponsor

I, (print your name) _____ understand the class requirements for Theatre 3/4. I further understand that participation is very important in this class and I will be expected to perform and participate in activities in front of the class. If I do not participate, I will not be able to achieve a passing grade in this class. I also understand that after school time may be required. I will be expected to audition for Districts and have to attend either as a performer or an observer (December 1-3, 2015; \$35 registration fee which includes T-shirt).

Student's Signature

Date

Parent Contact Phone

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Parent Email Address

Parent/Guardian's Name (Please Print)

Other Number(s) - please specify (optional)

My child is allowed to watch PG & PG-13 movies that are related to course content:

_____ **YES**

_____ **NO**