



Introduction to Drama Syllabus

Mrs. Madeleine Sherratt

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Welcome to Intro to Drama! First and foremost, I'm so happy to have you in my class this year. I look forward to getting to know you and watching you grow as a performer and individual.

Course Description: This introductory course is designed to help students establish a foundation in theater. Students will learn and develop acting techniques—such as voice control, timing, characterization, blocking, and movement— as they read and study dramatic literature, explore musical theater, and learn various theatrical elements. More than anything, the course is designed to enhance theater appreciation and provide students an outlet for self-expression and creativity.

This is a hands-on class, and students ***WILL*** perform ***DURING*** the class period. As beginners, students may be anxious or nervous about performing in front of their peers. Anyone who has ever acted (myself included) remembers those initial anxieties and insecurities well. Learning to combat and conquer those anxieties is as important a skill to learn as any other skill or technique I can teach. In the words of Spanish novelist Miguel de Cervantes, “To be prepared is half the victory.” Before performing, students will have ample time to rehearse and will have participated in learning activities related to the performance. By the end of the year, my goal is for each student to have increased their knowledge and appreciation of theater, as well as their confidence as an individual.

Materials:

- Any necessary prop or costume pieces (per project, recommended).
- All scripts, handouts, and videos will be provided.

Grade Breakdown:

Performances/Projects - 50%

Tests/Quizzes – 10%

Play Review - 15%

Classwork/Participation – 25%

Grades in theater are assigned through rubrics and tests that assess/measure the understanding and implementation of skills and knowledge. Talent level will hopefully rise as technique is learned, however, talent will never be a qualifier for a higher grade.

A+: 100 %

A: 90 - 99 %

B: 80 – 89 %

C: 70 – 79 %

D: 60 – 69 %

F: 59 % or Below

Live Production: All students are required to see a live play or musical during the course of each semester and write a critique. It can be a virtual performance, live performance, or prerecorded live performance. Students may attend AHS Theater performances, or a play of their own choosing in the community. Students will submit a written review of the play, which will count toward their semester grade.

Respect: The most important and foundational expectation in my class is that all students are treated with and treat others with respect. Theater is the ultimate collaborative effort: it requires a high level of communication and cooperation from everyone involved, from the director, to the stage manager, to the actors, all the way to the ticket takers. Everyone involved in this class plays a vital role. I will do my best to assume the best intentions in all students, and I will encourage students to do the same; however, language and behavior that is mean-spirited and disrespectful has no place in our classroom. Our class is a community that is dependent on the respect, participation, and enthusiasm of each member for the success of the whole.

Responsibility: Take responsibility for your work and your actions. Be on time to class and ready to work, with all required materials. Students are required to maintain journals. Homework assignments are due at the beginning of class when the bell rings.

Effort: This class requires you to work both inside and outside of class to complete assignments. Accept assignments without complaints and do your best on all work. In this class, you will get out what you put in. Keep all electronic devices out of the classroom unless otherwise directed.

Restroom and Food Policy: Please use passing periods to take care of restroom and water fountain needs. In the case of an emergency, students must ask permission to use the restroom and take the appropriate pass. No food or drinks are allowed in the classroom unless I give express permission (water is the exception).

Media Permission: Per district regulations, parents will need to give permission for students to watch videos, recorded plays, and all other recorded visual media. If at any point in the semester you plan to incorporate media into any of your projects or presentations, please let me know ahead of time.

Please sign this syllabus, have a parent/guardian sign, and return to me for homework credit.

Student Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

Weekly Schedule: Introduction to Drama

Week 1	Introduction to Drama: Activities & Ice Breakers
Week 2	Introduction to Stage
Week 3	Introduction to Voice
Week 4	Introduction to Pantomime and Timing
Week 5	Performances for Pantomime and Timing
Week 6	Introduction to Scene Work
Week 7	Plaza Suite- Pairs Selection/ Rehearsal
Week 8	Plaza Suite Rehearsal and Performance
Week 9	Introduction to Monologue
Week 10	Monologue Workshop
Week 11	Monologue Performances
Week 12	Introduction to Masks
Week 13	Introduction to Puppets
Week 14	Mask and Puppet Performances
Week 15	Introduction to Auditions
Week 16	Introduction to Character Work
Week 17	Character Work: Conscious Imitation Rehearsals
Week 18	Conscious Imitation Performances (Last Week of Semester)
Week 19	Introduction to Playwriting
Week 20	Playwriting Rehearsal
Week 21	Playwriting Rehearsal and Performance

Week 22	Introduction to Comedy
Week 23	Comedy Rehearsals
Week 24	Comedy Performances
Week 25	Introduction to Drama
Week 26	Drama Rehearsals
Week 27	Drama Performances
Week 28	Introduction to Musical Theater
Week 29	Musical Theater Research Project
Week 30	Introduction to Improv
Week 31	Introduction to Shakespeare
Week 32	Shakespeare Rehearsals
Week 33	Shakespeare Performances
Week 34	Introduction to One Act Plays
Week 35	One Act Rehearsals
Week 36	One Act Rehearsals
Week 37	Final One Act Rehearsals and Performances
Week 38	One Act Performances