

THEATER ARTS 1 Syllabus

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Course Description

This course is open to students in grades 10-12. Students actively explore the communicative art of live theater. Areas of concentration include acting, theater history, theater appreciation, technical theater, theater production, and play writing. Students participate in group projects that stress the collaborative aspects of the theater arts. This course may be taken during freshman or sophomore year in lieu of Physical Education.

Student Inclusion Statement

All people should enjoy an educational experience free from any form of harassment, discrimination, or violence. In creating a space that is both safe and brave, our hope is that every student will see themselves reflected in the work that we explore, create, and analyze.

Who: We all enter this classroom as learners. As instructor, I am open to learning new things from my students because I know that it will make me a better community member and person. I am not a monolith of my intersectional identity, and no one here is expected to be, either.

Why: You study this art- and any art- for personal reasons. Maybe you want to be an artist or lead a life of artistry, maybe you want to learn how to be better patrons of the arts, or maybe you do not know how art fits into your world, or you have a limited view of the scope of the art's impact.

How: Empathetically together, we will explore topics based in the production and creation of theater, television, film, digital and virtual performing arts through active engagement in training methods from diverse sources.

Learning Objectives

1. Students will demonstrate internal expressive resources.
2. Students will apply artistic discipline
3. Students will demonstrate external expressive resources of mind and body.
4. Students will analyze and evaluate dramatic text.
5. Students will display a complete believable character for performance.
6. Students will demonstrate basic technical skills of acting performance.
7. Students will use processes and techniques of technical theatre production.
8. Students will relate theatre to its social contexts.
9. Students will use formal critique to analyze performance.
10. Students will develop original creative scripts.
11. Students will illustrate an understanding of audition technique.

Listening is not just hearing what someone tells you word for word. You have to listen with a heart. I don't want that to sound touchy-feely; it is not. It is very hard work. - Anna Deveare Smith

Accommodation Statement

Theater is an art that embraces all. If you require accommodation or modification to better learn, please let me know, and we will work together to ensure your success.

Grading Policies

1. **Participation:** “A’s” do not go to the most outgoing but to those who honor our time together in the best way possible for them.
2. **Homework:** You will never be assigned busy work. This will only be the most necessary preparation for the days ahead. These may be videos, written work, or at-home rehearsals.
3. **Unit Assignments:** Each major project will have steps that lead to it. This is part of the balance between process and product. These will be process-based assignments.
4. **Major Assessments:** Each unit will have a higher order thinking assessment that requires you to create something out of the steps that got you there; these are often the product-based grades.

Participation Grade

A theater classroom is meant to be active, playful, and engaging. There are rules, boundaries, and techniques and strategies to help us work together for the betterment of each other and ourselves. This is what we call, “Theatrical Engagement.”

Goal	How can I achieve this Goal
Instructor Responsiveness	Track the instructor with your eyes Responding to questions (verbally or physically) Communicate concerns and/ or needs to the instructor to better understand directions.
Community Respect	Engage with fellow students. Share the role of active listener and intentional responder. Attend to the classroom space with care.
Task Responsibility	Involve yourself in projects, group tasks, and leadership responsibilities. Reinvest yourself if you lose focus on tasks. Manage your time effectively within projects, group tasks, and leadership responsibilities

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LOYOLA ACADEMY



Classroom Guidelines and Expectations

In this classroom, and in the various other spaces we use: the little theater, the outdoor theater, the quad, or the performing arts center, the expectation is that you will follow all school rules and that any infractions will result in understandable consequences. Remember that our thoughts lead to actions, actions lead to habits, and habits form our future selves. **Remember to care for your SELF, FELLOWS, SPACE!** When we do this, we sow the seeds for a better future.

UNIT BREAKDOWN	MAJOR ASSESSMENT
Ensemble Building/ Theatre Conventions	Group Improvisation, Storyweaving
The Actor's Tools	Vocal and Physical Performances
Scene Study	8-line Scene Preview and Presentation
Directing	Directed Scene work
Technical Theatre	Design Projects
Literary Adaptation	Adapted Scenes
Monologues and Auditioning	Monologue Audition
Advanced Scene Study	Scene Performance
Playwriting and Performance	Group Project
Student Choice Unit	Dependent upon student choice

Extra Credit Opportunities

Do you know a way to make theater a part of your extracurricular life? See a performance, build a set, act or take part in a crew, attend a talk or theatrical event? Speak with Mr. Arndt about a plan you have to go “above and beyond” to earn extra points.

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