

# LOYOLA ACADEMY

## THEATER ARTS 2 Honors Syllabus

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### Course Description

This course focuses on the advanced study and practice of theater arts. Emphasis is placed on developing the student's acting skills through scene studies and monologue and audition preparations, playwriting, and directing process. During the second semester, the students participate in guest artist work. Students are required to attend both professional theater and Loyola Academy productions. Hours of theater production work outside of class are also required each semester. This course may be taken during the 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 arts 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 apply artistic discipline
2. Students will demonstrate external expressive resources of mind and body.
3. Students will apply various theatrical conventions and methods to performance.
4. Students will employ psychophysical techniques to complete tasks with ease.
5. Students will collaborate to create artistic presentations.
6. Students will design and construct physical artifacts for a production.
7. Students will relate theatre to its social contexts.
8. Students will use formal critique to analyze performance.
9. Students will develop original creative scripts.
10. Students will create a performance for an audience.
11. Students will research professional theatre companies and create a company of their own.

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## 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 rehearsal.
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 Projects:** 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 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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## 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
Building Ensemble	RPG Assignment, Storyweaving
Acting Methodology	Psychological Gesture, Knock 3 Times Performance
Advanced Directing	Devising and Directing Project
Theatre Production/ Design	Design Projects
Literary Adaptation/ Devising	Adapted Scene Project
Improvistational Theatre	2 minute Play
Theatre for Social Impact	Playback and Theatre of the Oppressed
Professional Theatre	Verbatim, Theatre Company presentation
Children's Theatre	Folktale presentation
Theatre Company	Theater Incubator Project

## Practicum Requirements

Each student is required to take part in 5 hours of practicum during the the Fall and 5 hours of practicum during the Spring productions in the Leemputte Family Theater. This can be by acting in a production or taking part in a run crew (that would be more than 5 hours), by taking part in a set build with the Technical Director, or by taking part in cleaning/ organizing the prop and costume storage. You will coordinate this with your instructor.

## Production Viewing Assignment

Over the course of the school year, each student must watch 2 off-campus performances. These can be at any high school, community, college, or professional production.

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