

## THEATRE ARTS 352- Syllabus

“We live in what is, but we find a thousand ways not to face it. Great theatre strengthens our faculty to face it.” -Thornton Wilder

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Theatre Arts provides an overview of what makes theatre happen. The student will explore acting, directing, playwriting, construction & design, dramaturgy (history), etc. It is a goal to impress upon the students how theatre has enriched humanity and reacted for and against society since its beginnings. This will be couched in a group experience in which the students will create ensemble mock theatre companies.

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### LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- ❖ Understand what makes theatre different from other art and entertainment forms.
- ❖ Define and utilize theatrical vocabulary and understand how they apply to the different collaborators that make theatre.
- ❖ Understand the roles of the various artists who contribute to the creation of theatre.
- ❖ Discuss basic theories of acting and directing
- ❖ Discuss technical and design practices
- ❖ Recognize the structural elements of a play, and employ them in writing a short play.
- ❖ Develop criteria for intelligent and constructive criticism of a play.
- ❖ Discuss theatre's connection to culture and vice versa.

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### REQUIRED TEXTS AND COURSE MATERIALS:

- ❖ Downloadable Text and Plays on the iPad
- ❖ Pencils/ Pens
- ❖ A 1 subject notebook that will serve as a student's journal

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### WORK ENVIRONMENT:

**For each class a student needs to...**

1. Be punctual and attend every class, except in sickness and emergencies.
2. Have the appropriate supplies (paper, writing tools, and other supplies).
3. Have read the assigned material and be prepared to discuss the readings.
4. Listen attentively and participate through class discussions and group lessons.
5. Respect everyone's point of views and ideas.
6. Choose to learn as much as possible and show a positive attitude about the material while in class.
7. Develop positive learning habits throughout the class.

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### MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS:

**Participation-** In this class, **silence is NOT golden!** This class is based solely upon RESPONSIBLE student participation. In the spirit of this, participation will weigh heavily on the student's grade; this grade will change based on the student's work ethic in class.

**Journal Work** – YOU MUST KEEP A JOURNAL DURING THIS CLASS. We will work in it just about every day. This is a place to honestly write about your observations, answer questions, do homework, and to share your impressions of your/other student's progress. This cannot be on the iPad, so the student MUST have a one subject notebook.

**Acting, Directing, and Design Assignments & Quizzes** – Each content area will have assignments that you will be required to create, interpret, or research. Along with these assignments, there will be quizzes given periodically throughout the class.

**Theatre Reviews** – Each student will be required to see two plays this semester. One of the plays will be the fall play. **THIS IS MANDATORY!** There is NO MAKE UP for missing this play. The second play will be student’s choice, as long as it is a high school, community, college, or professional production. The teacher will give the students multiple options. For each of the plays, the student must write a review following the format that the teacher will be providing.

**Performances**- Each student will create characters for and perform in various styles and scripts over the course of the semester.

**FINAL EXAM** – The final exam will be a Theatre Festival. With that in mind, the students will create **ensembles** that will write, design, act, dance, and otherwise present a production created by their ensemble.

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#### CONNECTING TO THE CLASSROOM PAGE:

- Open Safari
- Go to [www.stpatricktheatre.org](http://www.stpatricktheatre.org)
- Click on Theatre Classes link to left
- Click on THEATRE ARTS class button
- Click on the action button
- Add this site to your homescreen

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#### EXTRA CREDIT POSSIBILITIES:

Listed below are possible options for extra credit. **PLEASE NOTE THAT EXTRA CREDIT CAN ONLY BE RECEIVED IF ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE UP TO DATE!**

**Theatre Review**- You can receive points for writing an additional play review depending upon the difficulty of the material and the thorough detail of the review. Details will be given by the instructor. Your extra review must adhere to the review assignment noted above.

**Creative Project**- You can receive extra points for working in productions either at Saint Patrick High School or any other theatre or school. If you have any other suggestions for projects outside of class that would push your education further or simply apply skills gained over the course of the semester, we can work out point values.

#### WEEKLY CALENDAR

| Weeks                                       | Unit                          | Activities               |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Week One: Theatre is Community              | Theatre and Ensemble Building | Ensemble Building Games  |
| Week Two: Theatre is Ritual                 | Origins of Theatre/ Ritual    | Ritual                   |
| Week Three: Theatre is Timeless             | Playwriting/ Adaptation       | Adaptation               |
| Week Four: Theatre is Spiritual             | Medieval Theatre/ Morality    | Morality Play            |
| Week Five: Theatre is Silly                 | Commedia/ Masks               | Commedia Mask/ Character |
| Week Six: Theatre is Heightened Language    | Renaissance/ Shakespeare      | Shakespeare Joust        |
| Week Seven: Theatre is Heightened Language  | Renaissance/ Shakespeare      | Shakespeare Scene        |
| Week Eight: Theatre is Technical            | Design Set and Costumes       | Set/ Costume Design      |
| Week Nine: Theatre is Technical             | Design Lights and Sound       | Sound/ Light Design      |
| Week Ten: Theatre is Social Change          | Theatre of the Oppressed      | Forum Performance        |
| Week Eleven: Theatre is Reflective          | Directing/ Reflection         | Directing Images         |
| Week Twelve: Theatre is Celebratory         | Day of the Dead               | Calavera Poem            |
| Week Thirteen: Theatre is Community         | Group Theatre/ Modern Acting  | 8 Line Scene             |
| Week Fourteen: Theatre is Entertainment     | Musical Theatre               | Musical                  |
| Week Fifteen: Theatre is a Part of our City | Chicago Theatre               | Chicago Theatre Profile  |
| Week Sixteen: Theatre is a Business         | Professional Theatre          | 2 Minute Play            |
| Week Seventeen: Theatre has Deadlines       | Final Exam Prep               | Final Exam               |
| Week Eighteen: Theatre is a Collaboration   | Final Exams                   | Final Exam               |