



Dallas High School Home of the Dragons



Introduction To Theater 2013 - 2014

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Also visit our sister Facebook page: “YAP High School Edition” for news about opportunities via the Young Artists Playtrium

Office Hours: Tues-Friday 3:00-3:30, Tues and Thurs 11:50-1:20

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Intro To Theater is an introductory course for students to experience a range of theater experiences. It is an elective for students in 9th through 12th grades. This class includes a variety of performance opportunities as well as examining the nature and function of theater in society. All performances projects are done within the class period.

Text: *The Foreigner* by Larry Shue, *Bang, Bang, You're Dead* by William Mastrosimone

Course Outline: First Semester

Standards	Unit Topic	Summative Assessment
1,2,3,4	Group Process/Getting Acclimated: Voice, Physicality, Commitment, Energy, Awareness	This is ongoing with a variety of activities throughout the class to prepare for tasks involved in summative assessments in other units.
5,6	Theater History	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commedia Group Performance• Test of Historical Periods
1,2,3,4	Visual Storytelling	Story Board Group Performance
1,2,3,4	Vocal Use and Body control	Memorized Solo Poem Typewriter
	Stage Terms	Test Of Stage Terms
7,8	Modern Play Study and Performance (using a linear plot structure)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Test of plot elements• Group or Solo Performance• Play Report
8	Modern Play Exposure (using non-linear plot structure)	No Summative Assessment – Focus of unit is process rather than product using <i>Bang, Bang, You're Dead</i> by William Mastrosimone
1,2,3,4	Improvisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group Improvisation Performance

Standards to Be Assessed:

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

1. Common Curriculum Goal: Create, Present, and perform works of art.
2. Common Curriculum Goal: Apply the ideas, techniques and problem solving to the creative process and analyze the influence that choices have on the result.

3. Common Curriculum Goal: Express ideas, moods and feelings through the arts and evaluate how well a work of art expresses one's intent.
4. Common Curriculum Goal: Apply critical analysis to works of art.
5. Common Curriculum Goal: Understand how the arts can reflect the environment and personal experiences within a society or culture.
6. Common Curriculum Goal: Understand how events and conditions influence the arts.
7. Common Curriculum Goal: Respond to works of art and give reasons for preferences.
8. Common Curriculum Goal: Understand how events and conditions influence the arts.

Career Related Learning Standards: Career-related learning standards (CRLS) are fundamental skills essential for success in employment, college, family, and community life. We have integrated the Personal Management standard from the CRLS into all courses at DHS. **This standard will be assessed and communicated independent of the academic grade.** It is included below and mainly includes behaviors that will be assessed in this course.

- **Personal Management Standard:** Exhibit appropriate work ethic and behaviors in school, community and workplace.
 - Students will identify tasks that need to be done and initiate action to complete the tasks.
 - Students will plan, organize and complete projects and assigned tasks on time, meeting agreed upon standards of quality.
 - Students will take responsibility for decisions and actions and anticipate consequences of decisions and actions.
 - Students will maintain regular attendance and be on time daily.
 - Students will maintain appropriate interactions with colleagues.

Grading and Assessment:

Student's final grade for each course will be broken down into two categories:

- 1) **Academic:** based on assessments, tests, projects and performances that measure learning.
- 2) **Personal Management:** based on homework completion and other behaviors measuring the CRLS personal management standard.

The Final grade is calculated as follows: 75% of the course grade will be based on the **Academic** grade and **25%** on the **Personal Management** grade.

- Any items included in the Academic grade (PA) may be retaken and the higher grade recorded. Teachers may extend the retake time period, but as a rule all retakes need to be done within **2 weeks** of the initial assessment.
- Students will complete extra preparation before retaking an assessment.
- Personal management work turned in late may be reduced by up to 50% credit.
- Retakes are not allowed on Personal Management assignments.
- Students must schedule performance retakes at their teacher's convenience. (Speech, drama, labs.)

Academic Integrity: We expect students to express academic integrity by doing their own work and properly documenting information gathered from other sources. Students who violate the principles of academic integrity will be subject to disciplinary consequences (see Insubordination section of the on-line student agenda).

Tardies and Unexcused Absences/ Rehearsal Points: Points will be given towards the Personal Management grade at intervals for daily attendance and punctuality. Points will be deducted for each tardy and each unexcused absence in that grading period. Overly disruptive behavior and lack of materials may also result in loss of attendance points.

Ways to succeed in theater

1. Realize as quickly as possible that you will have to work. It's a different kind of work from what you're used to but it needs to be done well and done on time.
2. Be prepared to take risks. Theater asks you to go where you aren't always comfortable- be ready to accept the challenge and forgive yourself when you struggle.
3. Work for the group. Support, Encourage and Accept. If this is difficult for you, get used to it. You will hear this over and over again.
4. Nobody get's left behind. Having a bad day? Feeling embarrassed? Not prepared? As a class, we will support and wait for you. "Sitting out" will never happen.

Here are the general rules

1. Please, no food, drinks, or gum in the theater.
2. Keep your feet off of the theater seats.
3. Hats are not worn in a theater.
4. The light booth, sets, props, and my office are not part of the classroom. Please stay out of them.
5. Be where you are supposed to be at all times. Theater involves lots of fun games but "Hide and Seek" is never one of them.
6. You will need pen/pencil, paper, notes, and often a script. Have them.
7. Keep your phones turned off.

Theater Discipline

The theater follows DHS policy. In general – be nice.

When turning things in electronically:

They must be sent as an attachment so formatting is visible. The time on the e-mail will be accepted as the time the paper was turned in. If you anticipate turning things in electronically it would be a good idea to send a test e mail soon in case you encounter problems with the district filter.

Performance Work

Everyone performs on time, even students who are unprepared, have lost their voice, are feeling ill, are not memorized....etc.

Play Attendance – Required (but free)!

You must go to see a full length live performance. Students can attend the final dress rehearsal at all high school plays and occasional student nights at Pentacle Theater for free. Other plays are available but will involve a ticket cost. Plan ahead to take advantage of free tickets.

Once you see your live performance you will write a critique of the show. Don't put them off. **This is the one written assignment that is not accepted late.** No exceptions for late play reports including being absent on that day. When you have weeks to do them, any mishap that happens to you is a risk you take when waiting until the last moment.

* Fall Term Due Date is the Friday prior to Christmas Break.

* Spring Term Due date is the Friday prior to Memorial Day. (5/24)

(Classes who do not meet on Friday may still use the Friday due date.)