Gorman’s Theatre Syllabus

2023-2024

# Instructor Information

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| Instructor | Email | Office & Classroom Locations |
| **Ms. Gorman** | [Mgorman@west-fargo.k12.nd.us](mailto:Mgorman@west-fargo.k12.nd.us) | Classroom: 152C OR 206H  Office: 205H |

“The theater is the only space where people will let you lock the door, sit in the dark together with strangers and listen to stories that illuminate who we are as a people. It’s where we work out our ever-changing definition of humanity, where we seek out empathy, hope and love.”

~ Esteban Andres Cruz

# General Information

## Course Description

## This activity-oriented course is designed for students who wish to begin a more serious study of acting and theatre in general. Participants will explore basic principles of acting through pantomime and improvisation and will analyze and develop character through scripted scenes and monologues. The class will be interspersed with lessons on basic stage and rehearsal terms, theatre etiquette as well as brief introductions to the rich history and traditions of the art of theatre itself.

## Expectations and Goals

1. RESPECT, RESPECT, RESPECT!
2. Be prepared: Bring homework, writing utensils, notebooks, textbooks, etc. every day.
3. Act responsibly. Use the bathroom between classes, do not work on other school work unless you have permission – Use the time given to you in class wisely.
4. Students will understand how given circumstances effect scene and character development.
5. Students will understand and demonstrate different styles of theatre.
6. Students will practice and understand the importance of good listening skills.
7. Students will practice and understand the elements needed for positive group communication.
8. Students will critically analyze literature in order to develop full, real characters.
9. Students will apply research skills to their scene and character work.
10. Students will understand the craft of acting.
11. Students will apply acting performance strategies to general presentation skills.

## Special Needs

Any students with disabilities or other special needs who need accommodations in this course are invited to share these concerns or requests with me.

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| Grading | | | | |
| A - 90%-100% (Advanced) | B - 80%-89% (Proficient) | C - 70%-79% (Emerging) | D - 60%-69% (Underdeveloped) | F - 50%-59% (Incomplete) |

# Homework Policy

## Make-Up and Late Work

* All make-up work is to be done within the standard allotted time (one day plus days missed). Work missed for a school activity or family trip must be made up in advance.
* All late work must be completed by the end of each quarter. If submitted past the quarter for which it was due, I will not accept the assignment. Please communicate with me if you need more time for an assignment. I will always allow more time AS LONG AS YOU TALK TO ME. Late work that was NOT cleared with me will receive a point reduction.

**PowerSchool/Updated Grades:**

* Grades are updated by the office every Friday morning before 8am. Since 8am is when I begin work, I will update grades by 4pm every THURSDAY. If you submit something to me after 4pm on Thursday, I will not grade it by the time grades are updated. It is up to you to have your work submitted on time.
* Work not submitted on time will receive a 0 in PowerSchool until it is submitted.

**Cheating and Plagiarism**

With regards to cheating, school policy will be enforced. Remember that cheating is as much a character issue as it is a policy issue. The English department recognizes a difference between intentional cheating and accidental plagiarism. Our common definition includes:

* Cheating is the intentional use of someone else’s work being presented as one’s own work (i.e. submitting another student's essay or copying and pasting written work found online).
* Accidental plagiarism is the misrepresentation of another’s work as one’s own (i.e. forgetting a works cited page; not attributing a quotation to the author; not understanding the correct method of paraphrasing a quotation).
* AI work, such as Chat GPT, promotes institutionalized plagiarism. While AI can produce seemingly original work, students need to understand and utilize the skills to develop sentences that portray critical thinking. Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Rutgers notes that “[AI is] trained on massive amounts of data, most of which data has been scraped from the internet without any compensation or consent or knowledge of the person who generated the data.” As such, any work found to be produced by chatbots will be considered plagiarism. *This AI/ChatGPT policy is new territory and is evolving. It may change to align with English Department, WFHS, and/or WFPS policies. Any changes will be announced.*

**Food and Drink Policy**

No food in hallways: This includes Period 1 and Period 2 breakfasts and lunches (purchased from school, brought from home, fast food, take-out from a restaurant, etc.).

Food in classrooms must be provided by teacher(s); All drinks must be in a container with a non-spill lid; **Food or drinks NOT in a non-spill lid will be directed to be thrown away.**

**Cell Phone and Device Policy**

* Students shall not use any electronic device that in any way disrupts or detracts from the educational environment. Electronic devices are inclusive of cell phones, smart watches, earbuds, and school-issued devices.
* Cell phones must be out-of-sight and out-of-use from the first bell to the last bell of all classes, including during study halls and within flexed learning spaces that are an extension of a classroom.
* Photographing or recording of another person should be used for educational purposes as defined by the teacher. Any use of an electronic device for other than educational purposes will result in a consequence.

**Communication**

* Class Updates/Changes: If circumstances change, I will post updates for assignments

and due dates using Updates on Schoology. I will also send a whole-class email (which

will include parent/guardian emails).

* Email and Schoology messages are the best way to contact me:
  + mgorman@west-fargo.k12.nd.us
  + I work between 8am and 4pm. Sending me an email/message outside of this time will not get a response until I am in school.

**WFHS Attendance Policy**

**West Fargo High School Procedure:**

* 3 and 5 absences: Letter is mailed home to families.
* 7 absences: Administrator schedules a meeting with student
* 9-10 absences: The administrator connects with the family and the student to establish a plan outlining expectations. If expectations are not met, the student will be dropped from the course(s) at a predetermined number of days.

After 20 minutes since the start of class, a tardy becomes a UV. Every fifth unexcused tardy will convert to an unexcused absence. This is per class period and will adhere to the attendance policy. All passes will be limited in the first and last 15 minutes of class (exceptions made for verifiable emergencies)

We will use E-Hall pass to be excused from the classroom. Students are allowed one excuse during my classroom, and I will only allow one student to be absent from class at a time.

# WFHS CCR

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| **Compassion**   * Learners will demonstrate their understanding of complexities of cultures and global issues and see viewpoints beyond their own in order to positively impact the world around them. |
| **Collaboration**   * Learners will work together, resolving controversy and conflict through respectful negotiation. |
| **Responsibility**   * Learners will be actively engaged in their learning and demonstrate responsibility, organization, and perseverance. |

**Theatre Breakdown**

My hope is to be a continuously reflective practitioner - as such this scope and sequence is subject to change based on student and teacher needs.

**Semester 1 Breakdown:**

**Unit 0: Icrebreaking, Intro to the stage**

Use voice, body, and movement to utilize the stage

Understand theatre terminology

**Unit 1: Oral Interpretation and Script Analysis**

Utilize voice and diction to deliver lines

Analyze a script for characterization

**Unit 2: Scene work and Creative Stagecraft**

Collaborate to develop and present a scene

Create a set of props for a show of choice

**Unit 3: Group Work and Dynamics**

Cooperate and collaborate with a team

**Unit 4: Scene Work and Technical Stagecraft**

Collaborate to develop and present a scene

Build a mock lighting or set for a show of choice

**Unit 5: Monologue**

Use skills learned over semester to prepare and deliver a solo monologue

**Unit 6: Final Project: Production/Showcase**

More information to come!