

TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Larkspur, California

Course of Study

DRAMA 1 (Beginning)

I. INTRODUCTION

A course designed to introduce students to all forms of theatre, including structure of drama, varieties of drama, and history of drama. Individual and group activities center around self-discipline, problem solving improvisations, group trust, personal trust in creative impulses, discovery of body and voice as the actor's tools, sensory and emotional awareness, rhythm and movement, and acting theory. Students in Drama I will participate in a rehearsal process which culminates in a public performance.

Drama I provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate the following student learning outcomes:

- #1 Communicate articulately, effectively, and persuasively when speaking and writing.
- #2 Read and analyze material in a variety of disciplines.
- #11 Interpret, experience, create, and perform artistic work.

II. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

A. Within this course, students will:

1. Communicate effectively with peers and adult mentors in the classroom and rehearsal settings.
2. Participate in short-term creative projects.
3. Analyze scripts.
4. Demonstrate rehearsal techniques such as teamwork, ensemble skills, staying on task, concentrating.
5. Begin to develop awareness of behavior as applied to the analysis and creation of characters (character theory).
6. Work within small groups of drama students within a classroom setting under the guidance of the drama teacher or guest artist.
7. Work within a group of Drama 1 students to create a role from original conception to its final public performance.
8. Critique his/her own work as a novice actor.
9. Critique and respond to the work of other Drama 1 students and provide specific feedback about how to improve performance.
10. Students will provide self-reflection writings within a journal, including responses to specific writing prompts and entries that reflect the rehearsal process and their observations of others.

B. Student Assessment:

Students will be assessed through a public performance and written and interviewed self-evaluations. Rehearsals will be observed and evaluated by faculty and guest artist mentors.

Expectations and grading criteria will be explained, preferably in writing, at the beginning of the course.

C. Course Assessment:

The course may be evaluated using student exit surveys, audience surveys, video archives, and evaluation by beginning/intermediate students.

III. METHODS / MATERIALS

Activities:

1. Get to know each other.
2. Rules – no private conversations, listening, warm-ups, evaluation.
3. What is actor training – Stanislavski and movement, relaxation, flexibility, awareness of body and brain connections.
4. Journals – why? How?
5. Small group work and teamwork enhanced through small-group exercises/games.
6. Theatre Games – relaxation, concentration, listening, observation.
7. Method of physical action
 - Stanislavski – philosophy no small actors
 - Uta Hagen – great tradition of bad acting
 - 3 Key Exercises
 - Read letter and destroy
 - Same action with 2 circumstances
 - Dream job / Dream vacation – conflict.
8. Actor homework
 - Look for indication
 - Be specific (in general is the enemy of art Stanislavski)
9. Evaluation of exercises – How did it go? Like you planned? How did you feel?
 - Process: setting goals and objectives.
 - Actor’s homework, show it, evaluate it.
 - How to relate to the script: preparation for one-act rehearsal.
10. Formal evaluation of semester-end project: oral and written.
11. See and evaluate all school drama performances.
12. Prepare for and cast one-act plays.
13. Students use a journal – record observations, reflect on process and learning, respond and critically self-reflect.
14. Warm-ups for play rehearsal.
15. Rehearse play/one-act.
16. Regular observation/assessment of rehearsal process by classroom teacher.
17. Permission slip is required, signed by parent or guardian, giving permission for student to rehearse and perform the given play, based on the parent/guardian reading the play and agreeing with content.

B. Materials:

There is no single text, but many references and sources will be used including:

<u>An Actor Prepares,</u>	Constantin Stanislavski
<u>The Golden Key,</u>	William Bell
<u>The Student Handbook,</u>	<i>site specific</i>
Handouts and dramatic texts	

IV. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Prerequisites

No Prerequisites.

B. Requirements Met

Drama 1 is a one-semester, five unit elective course, which can be used in partial fulfillment of the district's 220 unit requirement for graduation. Drama 1 also fulfills 5 units of the 10 unit district Fine Arts requirement for graduation.

Drama 1 is accepted as partial fulfillment of the CSU entrance requirement for 1 year of Fine Arts. Beginning in 2000-01, it will also be accepted by UC towards its Fine Arts requirement.

Adopted:

Revised 5/00