

Waco High School Theater Production Syllabus

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Course Description:

1. To provide the students with an opportunity to explore and learn the process of mounting a theatrical production from start to finish. In this course the students will act in and produce a play or scene night to be performed for the public each semester. In the participatory component the students will rehearse and then perform the chosen piece. Production responsibilities will include scenery, costumes, props and stage management. Administrative aspects will consist of securing royalties, marketing and publicity, playbill design, and house management.
2. To help students gain public speaking skills, team building and ensemble experience, become self-motivated and learn theatrical discipline. Drama helps students acquire personal resources and life skills through intellectual, aesthetic, physical and emotional development.

Objectives:

The student will have an opportunity to develop strategies and knowledge to:

1. Use critical thinking to enhance performance and/or production choices.
2. Practice focus and concentration as it pertains to actor work.
3. Invent, develop and portray characters and relationships.
4. Identify how an ensemble positively affects the production process.
5. Develop stage presence and voice projection through participation in performance activities.
6. Understand the technical aspects of theatrical production in relation to a performance.
7. Understand and demonstrate knowledge of the play production process.

Major Instructional Goals

The student will have the opportunity to develop strategies and knowledge to:

1. Further understanding and appreciation of the performing arts through practical experience.
2. Understand the play production process from the first reading to the final curtain.
3. Gain a greater knowledge of the actor's work and role in production.
4. Develop a professional sense of what type of productions are appropriate for different audiences.

Students will meet these objectives by either auditioning for WHS Mainstage shows and working on them in this class and in rehearsals after school and/or producing an in class show separate from our mainstage shows. These shows will be closed to the public but open to teachers and campus admin.

Evaluations

A final evaluative assignment will be given for each unit of study. This evaluation may be a written examination or a performance, depending on the unit of study. The semester and final examination for this course will be cumulative over the entire semester's work. See student handbook for grading policy.

Participation & Attendance

The opportunity to learn about Drama can only be truly successful when active participation is present. Participation in this class is of the highest priority. Everyone in this class must be open and willing to attempt every activity. To participate fully in this class, you must be in attendance every day. You cannot perform, participate and learn if you are not here. It will be difficult to pass this course if you are not here on a daily basis.

Keep the stage and drama rooms clean—Throw trash in the trash can. Don't leave personal items in the room or theater. I will issue referrals if you don't clean up after yourself. You will have access to the dressing rooms as well, please keep those areas clean and clear as well.

Food & Beverage

No food and beverages in the auditorium! You may have a snack in the lobby or the loading dock; however you must use trash cans or privilege will be suspended. Clear water bottles with cap will be permitted only.

Theater Facility – Freedoms & Restrictions

Some of the work in this class, will not be done in the classroom. On certain occasions, we will be rehearsing or performing in the Main Auditorium. You will be required to stay with the class AT ALL TIMES. You must have permission from Mr. Garrett to enter the prop room or backstage area. No one is allowed in the loft! If you are not in a designated area at a given time, you will be given a disciplinary referral and your parents will be contacted.

Classroom Rules

1. Be on time. The door will be closed after the second bell and you will be sent to the "Sweep" area to process a tardy.
2. Be respectful to the teacher and students at all times.
3. ABSOLUTELY NO NEGATIVE COMMENTS about other students' performances will be allowed. This is a cardinal sin during this class. It is hard enough to perform in front of your peers, much less be concerned about your appearance. I will not tolerate negative comments.
4. Always know your part. A large majority of your performance projects will be group projects and the other members of your group are counting on you to complete the project to the best of your ability, as it affects the final outcome of the performance.
5. Talking while others are performing is inconsiderate and is not to be done.
6. Do not give a performance with candy or gum in your mouth. Points will be deducted from a performance when a speaker has gum or candy in his/her mouth.

Materials Needed

- o Notebook paper
- o Pencils
- o Highlighters
- o Pens
- o Work clothes & Shoes (no flip flops) that paint may spill on. We have a private storage here for these items. Also, clothing that is comfortable to move in. These items can be kept in the dressing rooms but please take them home regularly to clean the.

THEATRE PRODUCTION GRADING POLICY

Grading Policy: Each six weeks, you will receive grades in three categories...

MAJOR GRADES (50% of final semester grade). Final performances, tests, play reviews, play reports, and projects constitute major grades. Minimum: 2 major grades each six weeks.

RETEST POLICY. Any student who receives a failing grade (less than a 70) on a MAJOR GRADED test or project may schedule a retest as soon as possible. The student must notify the teacher or his/her intention to retest within 2 school days from being notified of the failing grade.

Daily Grades/Minor Grades (35% of final semester grade). Participation and class engagement, performance etiquette, in-class quizzes, and written reports constitute minor grades. Minimum: 6 minor grades each six weeks.

Other Grades (15% of final semester grade). Daily online discussion board, vocabulary assignments, written class work and homework constitute other grades. Minimum: 4 other grades each six weeks.

Be a good audience member! Being a good listener is just as important as being a good performer. Theatre happens during silence. Theatre cannot happen during noise. That is chaos, not theatre. Points will be deducted for not being a good audience participant.

Make-Up Work

Make-up work for written assignments is permitted and will be graded for full credit provided that it is turned in within two (2) days after a student returns to school. It is the student's responsibility to request work missed and to turn in or perform within the above guidelines. Missed tests or performances must be made up either before or after school.

Late Work

Partial credit is given at Mrs. Smith's discretion. Twenty percent (20%) will be deducted from the total points for that assignment from the day it is due up to 5 days late. If the assignment is more than 5 days late, a "0" will be given for that assignment

Summary

This will be a busy semester for you in this class. All I ask is that you be open to all activities and not be afraid to show your abilities. All people have the ability to do something in all areas of theatre. Remember that this is an elective course and that you chose to take this class. Participation is the key to success in this course. If you participate in all activities and give to the best of your abilities, then you will not have trouble passing this course.

Parents

Please sign this form to acknowledge that you have read and understand the classroom procedures. This form will count as a homework grade and must be turned in no later than Friday September 1st to receive credit.

Student Name (Print):

Student Signature:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date:
