

Claiborne High School

Jessie Surber

jessie.surber@claibornecsd.org

Course Syllabus 2025 - 2026

**A. Course:** Introduction to Theatre Arts

**B. Department:** Fine Arts

**C. Course Description:** We want for all of our students to drive improvement in the system that delivers that learning. Standards, therefore, should embody the key concepts, processes and traditions of study in each subject area, and articulate the aspirations of those invested in our schools—students, teachers, administrators, and the community at large. With this explanation in mind, these standards were built on the framework of the NCAS which is built on four key domains: Creating, Performing/Presenting/Producing, Connecting, and Responding. Within each of these domains are foundations and standards to support the development of curriculum, programs, and learning in dance. By keeping the domains and foundations of the NCAS, there is continuity not only across fine arts in Tennessee, but also across the US. Each domain houses standards for each grade level through grade 8; then, standards for varying levels of dance and theatre proficiency in high school: beginner (HS1), intermediate (HS2), advanced (HS3), and pre-professional (HS4). There are instances where the standards between (HS3) and (HS4) look similar at each level. In these instances, the underlying concepts should increase in rigor from year to year. This framework allows for greater teacher flexibility while also increasing rigor in the discipline and keeping many of the positive elements

from the original Tennessee state standards. Overall, this updated set of standards is designed for teacher flexibility. Teachers are the best judges of how to plan, build, implement, assess, and differentiate instruction. Teachers have access to and support from a variety of resources and should be able to use those resources in the way they see fit to best facilitate their instruction. These standards are purposefully broad for the sake of district curriculum development. Tennessee is a broad and diverse state with many cultures, practices, and values. It is important that every district be given autonomy to design a curriculum that is authentic to their population.

**D. Course Calendar:**

\* The standards will be taught out of sequence for students to better ascertain an understanding of the instructional material.

\*The Nine Weeks will be dependent on the semester students take the class.

- a. 1st Nine Weeks: Perform, Create
- b. 2nd Nine Weeks: Respond, Connect
- c. 3rd Nine Weeks: Perform, Create
- d. 4th Nine Weeks: Respond, Connect

**E. Major Assignments and Field Trips:**

- Unit Tests will be assigned upon the completion of each Unit.
- There will be a cumulative test of all the standards taught at the end of the second nine weeks of classes.

- Students will perform scenes in class from multiple plays throughout the semester during school hours..
- Toilet Paper Food Prop Assignment
- Playwrighting Assignment
- Other assignments will be announced throughout the progression of the year.

\*Assignments are subject to change at the teacher's discretion.

#### **F. Standards & Objectives From Tennessee State Department of Education:**

<https://www.tn.gov/education/instruction/academic-standards/arts-education.html>

#### **G. Procedures For Parental Access to Instructional Materials:**

Parents/Guardians may acquire instructional material through Google Classroom, Remind, and email. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to contact the teacher to acquire instructional materials.

#### **H. Tennessee State Assessment Information:**

This course is not assessed by the Tennessee Department of Education.

#### **I. Student Expectations (for both in class and distance learning)**

Students are expected to follow the school policies as written in the Student Handbook. Students are also expected to do the following:

- Be prepared
- Be respectful
- Use safety precautions

**Cell Phones** are not to be used in the classroom or in the Multipurpose Room.

#### **Late Work Policy:**

Work must be completed and turned in for students to receive grades. An additional ten points will be deducted from the final grade for each day after the original due date.

#### **Uploading Assignments:**

**In Class** - Google classroom will be used to give out work and for posting assignments when applicable.

**Due Dates:**

In Class - Due dates will be given by the teacher. Work that is not turned in by the due date will be considered late.

**Grading Procedures:**

In-Class: Work will be graded as soon as possible.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR NAME IS ON ALL ASSIGNMENTS!

**Grading Scale**

A - 90 - 100

B - 80 - 89

C - 70 - 79

D - 60- 69

F - 0 - 59

**Weighted Categories**

In-Class:

Test - 40 %

In-Class Assignments/Exercises - 60%

**Student Communication:**

- IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO EMAIL ME WITH ANY ISSUES YOU ENCOUNTER. Students will be given a code to join a “Remind” class where they will contact me with any questions after school hours.
- Emails will be responded to within 48 hours of receiving them during the workweek. Phone call messages will be returned within 48 hours during the workweek.

**Cheating and Plagiarism:**

- Students caught using Artificial Intelligence (AI) will receive a zero for their grade.
- Students copying another student’s answers for assignments or testing will receive a zero for their grade.

**Extra Credit**

- No extra credit opportunities will be given.

## **Homework:**

- Due dates will be given in class for assignments, but most assignments/exercises will be completed in class.
- Students will need to memorize a monologue for class. This is a test grade. They will also be unable to attend the feedback session if they do not perform their monologue, which will also be a zero. Students will be given a week to procure a monologue, and then students will be given one to two weeks to study their monologues before performing it in class in front of their peers and the teacher.

## **J. Materials/Text**

- Students will read excerpts from *Our Town*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Monster Calls*, and other readings assigned by the teacher.
- Students will need a notebook and a pen or pencil for Introduction to Theatre Arts.

## **K. Food and Drink Policy**

- Food and drink are allowed in the classroom, but students are responsible for cleaning up after themselves. If this becomes an issue, this privilege might be revoked. This will not impact students with a 504 or an IEP.

## **L. Teacher Contact Information**

Email: [jessie.surber@claibornecsd.org](mailto:jessie.surber@claibornecsd.org)

Planning: 11:32 - 1:25

School Phone: (423) 626 - 3532

\* You may also contact me through the Remind App. Thank you!

## **M. About the Teacher**

I hold a Bachelor of Arts in History, as well as a Masters and Educational Specialist Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Lincoln Memorial University. I am currently completing a Masters of Arts in Theatre Arts:

Directing at Roosevelt University. I am certified in History (7-12), Theatre (K-12), and Middle Grades (4-8).

Thank you so much for your assistance and cooperation during your child's educational journey. Please review this syllabus with your child and sign below. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Please sign and return this portion. Thank you!

Please Sign and Return

Student:

By signing below, I have read and agree to the statements in the syllabus provided by Mr. Jessie Surber.

Print Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian:

By signing below, I have read and agree to the statements in the syllabus provided by Mr. Jessie Surber.

Print Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The Claiborne County School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its educational programs, activities or employment policies and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding compliance on the non-discrimination policies should be directed to 504/Title IX Coordinator at (423) 626-7979.