



Introduction to Theater Syllabus

Mrs. Madeleine Sherratt- D125

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Welcome to Intro to Theater! First and foremost, I'm so happy to have you in my class this year. I look forward to getting to know you and watching you grow as a performer and individual.

Course Description: This introductory course is designed to help students establish a foundation in drama. Students will learn and develop acting techniques—such as voice control, timing, characterization, blocking, and movement— as they read and study dramatic literature, explore musical theater, and learn various theatrical elements. More than anything, the course is designed to enhance theater appreciation and provide students an outlet for self-expression and creativity.

This is a hands-on class, and students ***WILL*** perform ***DURING*** the class period. As beginners, students may be anxious or nervous about performing in front of their peers. Anyone who has ever acted (myself included) remembers those initial anxieties and insecurities well. Learning to combat and conquer those anxieties is as important a skill to learn as any other skill or technique I can teach. In the words of Spanish novelist Miguel de Cervantes, “To be prepared is half the victory.” Before performing, students will have ample time to rehearse and will have participated in learning activities related to the performance. By the end of the year, my goal is for each student to have increased their knowledge and appreciation of theater, as well as their confidence as an individual.

Materials:

- Any necessary prop or costume pieces (per project, recommended).
- A Theater Notebook (any single subject notebook will work) for performance notes & feedback.
- All scripts, handouts, and videos will be provided.

Grade Breakdown: Grades in theater are assigned through rubrics that assess/measure the understanding and implementation of skills and knowledge. Talent level will hopefully rise as technique is learned, however, talent will never be a qualifier for a higher grade.

Performances/Projects - 50%
Tests/Quizzes – 10%

Live Performance Review - 15%
Classwork/Participation – 25%

Grade Scale:

A: 100 - 90 %
B: 80 – 89 %

C: 70 – 79 %
D: 60 – 69 %

F: 59 % or Below

Live Performance Review: All students are required to see a live play or musical during the course of each semester and write a critique. It can be a virtual performance, live performance, or prerecorded live performance. Students may attend AHS Theater performances, or a play of their own choosing in the

community. Students will submit a written review of the play, which will count toward their semester grade.

Media Permission: Per district regulations, parents will need to give permission for students to watch videos, recorded plays, and all other recorded visual media. By signing this syllabus, parents/guardians agree to allow their children to watch the following media presentations as part of our *Introduction to Theater* curriculum, acknowledging that they may withdraw consent at anytime, and for any reason:

- Broadway: The American Musical, Episodes 1-5
- Into The Woods
- Phantom of The Opera
- Les Miserables

If any other media permissions are required, a permission slip will be sent in the form of a Google Form before each unit. Parents and guardians will only need to supply their email address and name on this form; filling out this form will be considered permission for the student to watch the designated media unless otherwise designated on the form.

Respect: The most important and foundational expectation in my class is that all students are treated with and treat others with respect. Theater is the ultimate collaborative effort: it requires a high level of communication and cooperation from everyone involved, from the director, to the stage manager, to the actors, all the way to the ticket takers. Everyone involved in this class plays a vital role. I will do my best to assume the best intentions in all students, and I will encourage students to do the same; however, language and behavior that is mean-spirited and disrespectful has no place in our classroom. Our class is a community that is dependent on the respect, participation, and enthusiasm of each member for the success of the whole.

Responsibility: Take responsibility for your work and your actions. Be on time to class and ready to work, with all required materials. Students are required to maintain journals. Homework assignments are due at the beginning of class when the bell rings.

Effort: This class requires you to work both inside and outside of class to complete assignments. Accept assignments without complaints and do your best on all work. In this class, you will get out what you put in. Keep all electronic devices out of the classroom unless otherwise directed.

Restroom and Food Policy: Please use passing periods to take care of restroom and water fountain needs. In the case of an emergency, students must ask permission to use the restroom and take the appropriate pass. No food or drinks are allowed in the classroom unless I give express permission (water is the exception).

Cell Phone and Technology Policy: NO CELL PHONES ALLOWED. There is no reason for you to have your cell phone out in my class. If I see it, you will be given ONE verbal warning. If I see it again, I will confiscate it, and it will be sent to the vice principal's office. NO VIDEO RECORDING OR PHOTOS of anyone in the classroom, student or teacher, unless you have been given explicit permission from myself and all those being recorded/photographed. Recording or photographing someone without their permission, regardless of intent, is an egregious violation of privacy and will be treated as bullying.

Please sign this syllabus, have a parent/guardian sign, and return to me for homework credit.

Student Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

Weekly Schedule: Introduction to Theater

Schedule Subject to Change and Modification as Necessary

Week 1 August 7-11 (First Week of Fall Semester)	Welcome to Introduction to Theater! <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Course and Syllabus Introduction• Live Performance Review Breakdown• Activities & Ice Breakers
Week 2 August 14-18	Introduction to Improv: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scenes From a Hat• Questions Only• Rhymes• Alphabets
Week 3 August 21-25	Introduction to Stage & Theater Terminology: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Theater Terminology• Tour of the MPR• Blocking• Quiz on Stage & Theater Terminology
Week 4 August 28-September 1	Introduction to Movement & Expression: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expressions• Charades• Puppet Theater
Week 5 September 4-8	Pantomime Unit: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to Pantomime• How To Give Performance Feedback• Rehearsal for Pantomime Performance
Week 6 September 11-15	Pantomime Unit: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rehearsals and Performances for Pantomime
Week 7 September 18-22	Pantomime Unit: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performances for Pantomime
Week 8 September 25-29	Mafia Week: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to Storytelling• Mafia!
Week 9 October 2-6	Introduction to Voice: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anatomy of the Voice• Projection• Accents• Characterization
Week 10 October 9-13	Monologue Unit: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to Monologues• Analyzing Monologue Performances

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini-Monologues
Week 11 October 16-20	Monologue Unit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsals for Monologue Performance
Week 12 October 23-27 (Week of Fall Play)	Monologue Unit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsals for Monologue Performance
Week 13 October 30- November 3	Monologue Unit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsals and Performances for Monologue Performance
Week 14 November 6-10	Monologue Unit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performances for Monologue Performance • Live Performance Review Workshop
Week 15 November 13-17	Improv: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenes From a Hat • Questions Only • Rhymes • Alphabets
Week 16 November 20-24	Thanksgiving Break: Enjoy Your Break!
Week 17 November 27- December 1	Live Performance Review Workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live Performance Review due next week (December 8th)
Week 18 December 4-8	Live Performance Review Workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live Performance Review due at 11:59 PM on Friday
Week 19 December 11-15 (Last Week of Fall Semester)	Finals Week: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studying For Finals • Winter Potluck
Week 20- Week 22 December 18- December 29	Winter Break: Enjoy Your Break!
Week 23 January 1-5 (First Week of Spring Semester)	Welcome to Spring Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calendar and Continuing Expectations • Mafia!

<p>Week 24 January 8-12</p>	<p>Introduction to Scene Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Becoming A Character ● Voice and Movement ● Building Off The Cast
<p>Week 25 January 15-19</p>	<p>Scene Work Unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction to “The Gingerbread Lady” ● “The Gingerbread Lady” Rehearsals
<p>Week 26 January 22-26</p>	<p>Scene Work Unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “The Gingerbread Lady” Rehearsals
<p>Week 27 January 29- February 2</p>	<p>Scene Work Unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “The Gingerbread Lady” Rehearsals and Performances
<p>Week 28 February 5-9</p>	<p>Scene Work Unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “The Gingerbread Lady” Performances
<p>Week 29 February 12-16</p>	<p>Introduction to Musical Theater</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Broadway: The American Musical” Episodes 1-5 ● “Broadway: The American Musical” Study Guide
<p>Week 30 February 19-23</p>	<p>Musicals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Watch <i>Into The Woods</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Direction ○ Costumes ● Costume Design Mini-Project
<p>Week 31 February 26- March 1</p>	<p>Musicals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Watch <i>Phantom of The Opera</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lighting and Sound Design ○ Movement and Expression ● Light Design Mini-Projects
<p>Week 32 March 4-8</p>	<p>Musicals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Watch <i>Les Miserables</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Acting ○ Set Design ● Begin “Mini-Musical” Project
<p>Week 33 March 11-15</p>	<p>Mini-Musical Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work on Mini-Musical Project in groups this week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Due Next Friday (March 22) at 11:59 PM
<p>Week 34 March 18-22 (Week of Spring Musical)</p>	<p>Mini-Musical Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work on Mini-Musical Project in groups this week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Due Friday (March 22) at 11:59 PM

<p>Week 35 March 25-April 29</p>	<p>Spring Break: Enjoy Your Break!</p>
<p>Week 36 April 1-5</p>	<p>Introduction to Script Writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How to Write a Script ● Story Prompts ● Writing in teams
<p>Week 37 April 8-12</p>	<p>Script Writing Unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Script Writing Workshop
<p>Week 38 April 15-19</p>	<p>Script Writing Unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Script Writing Rehearsals
<p>Week 39 April 22-26</p>	<p>Script Writing Unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Script Writing Rehearsals
<p>Week 40 April 29-May 3</p>	<p>Script Writing Unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Script Writing Rehearsals and Performances
<p>Week 41 May 6-10</p>	<p>Script Writing Unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Script Writing Performances <p>(Auditions for Advanced Theater and Production & Performance)</p>
<p>Week 42 May 13-17</p>	<p>Live Performance Review Workshop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Live Performance Review due at 11:59 PM on Friday
<p>Week 42 May 20-24 (Last Week of Spring Semester)</p>	<p>Finals Week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Studying For Finals ● Spring Potluck