



Performance & Production Syllabus

Mrs. Madeleine Sherratt-D125

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Welcome to Performance & Production! 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: In this intensive course, actors develop a deeper understanding of theater and production from different cultural and historical perspectives and build upon past theater experiences. This is an audition-based class that will strengthen and enhance skills in ensemble work, movement, voice, scene and play analysis, playwriting, directing, and musical theater. Scene work will include an emphasis on character development and emotional truth, improvisational skills, character analysis and performance, audition skills, and career paths. Students will participate in theater festivals and experience live theater. Students will also work on the production elements of theater, such as set, lighting, and sound design; stage directing; promotion; and writing original works for performance.

This is a hands-on class, and students ***WILL*** perform ***DURING*** the class period. Some 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).
- All scripts, handouts, and videos will be provided.

Grade Breakdown:

Performances/Projects - 50%

Tests/Quizzes – 10%

Play Review - 15%

Classwork/Participation – 25%

Grades in theater are assigned through rubrics and tests 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.

A+: 100 %
D: 60 – 69 %

A: 90 - 99 %
F: 59 % or Below

B: 80 – 89 %

C: 70 – 79 %

Live Production: 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.

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 Mr. Cloke'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.

Media Permission: Per district regulations, parents will need to give permission for students to watch videos, recorded plays, and all other recorded visual media. If at any point in the semester you plan to incorporate media into any of your projects or presentations, please let me know ahead of time.

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

Student Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____