

ASPECTS OF ACTING

Course Syllabus

"Acting is the most human of all the arts; one has to study a great deal to know a little. The pursuit of knowledge is one of life's greatest joys." unknown

"I can take any empty space and call it a bare stage. A man walks across this empty space whilst someone else is watching him, and this is all that is needed for an act of theatre to be engaged." Peter Brook - *The Empty Space*

I. ASPECTS OF ACTING:

Creativity and innovation are vital 21st century skills. You will develop self-confidence and communication skills through acting training and discussion, theatre games, improvisation, and attendance at professional productions. You will discover and enhance your talent through script and character analysis, in conjunction with the study of acting techniques. Memorization and out-of-class rehearsal time will be required. Extra credit is available for participation in Pointe Players / South theatrical activities and productions!

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- A. You will develop leadership, critical thinking and cross-cultural skills as you explore and analyze dramatic works.
- B. Students will develop an understanding of how drama and theatre reveal human experience and through this, a better understanding of self.
- C. Theatre is a collaborative process, and scholars learn to appreciate, understand, and effectively communicate with a widely diverse group of human beings.
- D. Confidence and communications skills grow as actors use their voices, bodies and minds to translate dramatic forms into active presentations.

III. REQUIREMENTS:

A. Course Materials-

The text, *Theatre – Art in Action*, a folder for scripts and hand-outs, and a writing implement will be required. Your folder will contain all in-class assignments, research, handouts, as well as all completed assignments.

B. Outside Reading Sources-

Monologues and Scenes from scripts/plays will be selected; final choices must receive the approval of the instructor.

C. Critical Reviews -

1. You must see and review a production of your choice. A ticket will be required for this event.
2. An additional review/presentation will be an extra credit option.

IV. GRADING & EVALUATION:

A. Grading Policy-

A = Prompt completion of assignments, consistent improvement and effort, initiative and concern above reproach. Your participation in class both as an observer/critic and as an active participant, is of vital importance as a means of evaluating your progress as a theatre artist.

B = No more than one zero or incomplete assignment, directions and corrections used and improvements made, consistent effort and initiative above normal.

C = Less than three incompletes, follows directions, effort at normal level, initiative and concern below expectations.

D = Three or more unacceptable assignments, inconsistent effort, excessive tardies or absences.

E = Work and effort at an unacceptable level.

Significant, personalized feedback is conveyed on a regular basis through individual conferencing, written observations, coordinated assessments and classroom displays. Grades will be available and updated at approximately three week intervals on Pinnacle. When an assignment is given, it takes about a week to ensure that everyone has taken, re-worked or made up the task, and from one to five days to accurately reflect and assess it. Only then will I update your effort from the past few weeks. This ensures that your status is indicative of your actual progress - not just a reflection of a single outstanding project or a distressing test. Please see me with questions or concerns.

*** Each one of you can earn an "A" if you are willing to put forth the effort.

B. Make-up/Late work-

When a presentation, project, test, etc. is missed due to an EXCUSED absence, you have one day for each day absent to make up the work. If you fail to take the initiative for make-ups or fail to turn in an assignment, it receives a "0". Remember, it is your responsibility to make arrangements for all make-up work. **Reminder – absences do not change long-term assignment deadlines!**

An UN-EXCUSED absence means an automatic "E." Unexcused absences and tardies, both forms of non-participation, will adversely affect your success. You generally receive 5 points per day for class work and productive participation.

I DO NOT EXCEPT LATE WORK...you snooze, you lose! For extenuating circumstances (accepting a Nobel Prize, unexpected time travel), see me. For printer breakdowns, late games, my dog ate it, etc. PLAN AHEAD!

C. Midterm/Final Exam - You must receive passing grades to pass the course. This counts as 20% of your final grade.

D. Approximation of points received for individual assignments -

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|---|----------------------------|
| Attendance/Participation | 1 – 5 (negative potential) |
| Classroom events/Quizzes | 5 - 10 |
| Minor Written Assignments/Presentations/Assessments | 10 - 25 |
| Major Papers/Projects/Tests | 25 - 60 |

100-98% = A+

97-93 = A

92-90 = A-

89-87 = B+

86-83 = B

82-80 = B-

79-77 = C+

76-73 = C

72-70 = C-

69-67 = D+

66-63 = D

62-60 = D-

59 and below = E

***As with any course, it is your responsibility to save all assignments, papers, projects etc., in order to avoid any grade discrepancy disputes later in the term. Keep everything!

V. CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

* A Positive Attitude and Productive Participation are essential.

* Approx. ½ hour of homework each night is the norm – 2-3 hours a week; plan on it.

* *Deserve respect; expect respect.*

* Bring all necessary supplies, attend regularly, punctually, and behave responsibly.

* **NO gum, unauthorized electronic use, food, beverages, vulgarity, insubordination, harassment, etc. allowed in class. Infractions will negatively impact your grade.**

* One trip out of class per semester (restroom, drink, locker, etc.), is available; use it judiciously. If you forget materials, fail to plan ahead, etc., it will affect your grade - see that it doesn't.

* Do not pack up or get up until the bell; it does not dismiss you, I do.

* **Plagiarism is the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another and representing it as original.** Research wisely, paraphrase selectively, and attribute accurately; always cite your source. Start early; make it personal; do your own work!

VI. KEEPING IN TOUCH:

I am available Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 7:15 – 7:50 a.m. or after school by appt.; my room # is 401 and my email is dunhamm@gpschools.org, which is the best way to reach me. Please engage in your success now. Ask for help when you get stressed, behind, or befuddled. I am not that scary. Please review the information in this syllabus with your parents.

Welcome - now let's have a great semester!