

# Theater

**GRADE LEVEL:** 9-12

**PREREQUISITE(s):** None

**TYPE OF COURSE:** one year course

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The course is designed to introduce the art of the actor through performance. Through various processes each student will discover what is encompassed in the history of drama and the dramatic profession. Through reading of the textbook and scripts; writing essays and scripts; design, acting, and lecture, students will have a beginning understanding of the history of drama and the dramatic profession.

### **A. Student Outcomes:**

1. The student will understand the historical nature of the study of the history of drama through the making of connections between drama, society, culture, government and people.
2. Experiment with and learn about different acting, directing, and designing techniques.
3. Demonstrate a working knowledge of how to critique theatrical productions, applying the terminology of evaluation.

### **B. Course Objectives:**

1. Students will respond to sensory information - voice, visual, and movement - through the vocabulary and skills unique to drama (Standard 1).
2. Students must achieve an understanding of the varying techniques of acting, directing and design, script writing and set building (Standard 2).
3. Students will produce and perform their own theatrical productions (Standard 2).
4. Students will utilize technology and various media to publicize their productions (Standard 5).
5. Students must achieve an understanding of how to be a drama critic (Standard 4).
6. Students will understand the historical and cultural contributions of theater and dramatic literary works (Standard 3).
7. Students integrate theatrical skills with other curricular areas to make formal/informal presentations (Standard 5).

### **C. Course Outline:**

#### I. Exploring the Theater:

- A. Acting.
  1. Voice
  2. Visual
  3. Movement
  4. Improvisation
- B. Directing & Producing.
  1. Roles
  2. Production Team
  3. Performance Space
- C. Technical Aspects of the Theater.
  1. Stage Crew

2. Set/Prop Design and Construction
3. Light/Sound
4. Costume and Makeup
- D. Theater History/Profile.
  1. Antigone
  2. Tartuffe and Moliere
  3. The Zen Substitute and O. Shiko
  4. Uncle Vanya and A. Chekhov
  5. Seven Guitars and A. Wilson
- E. Writing & Theater.
  1. Critiquing Drama
  2. Writing a Play
  3. Writing a Review
  4. Promoting a Show
  5. Writing a Screenplay
  6. Reader's Theater Adaptation
  7. Writing a Research Paper
- F. Careers & Theater.

**Key Activities/Assignments:**

1. Personal physical warm-up routine
2. Improvisation
3. Job shadow
4. Go to see a play
5. Learn your stage areas
6. Express your new experiences
7. Analyzing behavior
8. Self-analysis
9. Cold readings
10. Mid-Term Exam
11. Script evaluation
12. Blocking a scene
13. Assessing the elements
14. Compare and contrast techniques
15. Tragic hero/heroine
16. Incorporating stage business
17. Rehearsal schedule
18. Coaching actors
19. Stage and film acting
20. Changing plays into film
21. Final Exam

**D. Texts and Supplemental Instructional Materials:** Theatre: Art in Action by NTC (Robert D. Taylor and Robert Strickland) or like text or comparable text.

**E. Instructional Methods and Strategies:**

1. Lecture
2. Demonstration
3. Modeling
4. Video
5. Live theater
6. Guest speakers and presenters
7. Co-operative learning (as production team)
8. Acting

9. Written/oral tests and quizzes

**F. Assessment Methods:**

1. Tests and quizzes are given to assess whether or not students have listened, researched, or experienced the information that is being exchanged.
2. Each student must learn to write a script in proper format. Along with solving format problems, students are required to have knowledge of, and incorporate into their scripts, character arcs, character relationships, pacing, dialogue development, and sub plot.
3. All students must participate in acting - from formal scripted plays to improvisation.
4. Students must be engaged and be able to show what "sub-group" knowledge they have acquired. This varies from writing as a personal emphasis to mask making, and everything in between.
5. All students must turn in a research paper that deals with an influential movement, individual, or theatre invention.
6. All students are required to see theatrical performances outside of the school, whether performed by a community theatre, college, or professional company.