



Course Description: This is an introductory course in theatre and acting. We will examine the production elements of theatre: acting, directing, playwriting, and design. We will also study the history, aesthetics, and etiquette of theatre, as well as methods of effective criticism. **This is a performance-based course.** You *will* perform in front of others (both in class and for an invited audiences). Don't look at this as something to fear- this is an opportunity to demonstrate your work and talent!

Course Objectives:

- To demonstrate an understanding of theatrical vocabulary, history, and the genres of theatre.
- To demonstrate confidence in using the body and voice for creative self-expression.
- To develop and improve acting skills by successfully performing a variety of material in front of an audience (including pantomime, monologues, and scenes).
- To participate so that individual creativity becomes a part of successful group efforts.
- To show respect for classmates through positive support and proper etiquette.

Evaluation: Grades will be based on tests, daily grades (quizzes, homework, in-class activities, *etc.*), projects, performances, and participation. It is important to emphasize: **class participation is essential for the successful completion of this course!** During the first nine weeks, we will learn about various types of performance and theatre history. The second nine weeks will provide a focus on performance, culminating in scenes before an invited audience. Technical theatre and acting for the camera (as well as film and television production) will comprise the third nine weeks. During the fourth nine weeks, we will produce a one act play to present to an invited audience.

Supplies: You will need the following items:

- Binder
- Pen (Blue or black ink)
- Pencil
- Highlighter

Scripts, when used, will be provided to students. They should be placed in binders.

Break a leg!!!

Contact Information:

Eric St John
205.439.1465
mstjohn@hoover.k12.al.us
Meetings available by appointment during 4th, 5th, and AO.

Class Rules

1. Respect and be polite to all.
2. Bring needed materials to class- this includes a positive attitude.
3. Be in your seat and ready to begin when the bell rings.
4. Respect other people's property.
5. Follow all rules set forth by Spain Park High School and Hoover City Schools.

A Special Note Concerning Electronic Devices

Quite simply put, unless you have received permission to use such a device in class, these should remain out of sight during class. **Phone use during class is prohibited.**

Theatre

Class may be held in the theatre on certain days. You will be notified beforehand of this. When in the theatre, you are to follow the same rules you would in the regular classroom. No food, gum, or drinks are allowed in the theatre. You are to work only in designated areas. As in the classroom, if you make a mess, please clean it up. Many times, we will work in the theatre while the advanced students are working on a production. There may be set pieces and/or props backstage. These are to be left alone!

Beginning/Ending Class

When you enter class, check the board for the day's first activity. You will have time at the end of class to collect your things and clean up, but keep in mind- **the bell does not dismiss class.**

Be sure to use the restroom before class. You will not be allowed to leave class except for emergency situations.

Textbooks

Although you will not be issued textbooks in this class, we will use a text from time to time. These books are to remain in the classroom. You are responsible for keeping the books in good condition.

When you are given a script, you must bring it class every day. If you lose your script, you are responsible for making or purchasing a new copy.

Food, Drinks, Gum, Bags, and Purses

These are not allowed in the classroom, although bottled water will be allowed.

Regarding backpacks, bags and purses: these are to be placed beneath your chair before class. They are to stay there during class. Remove all needed supplies before class begins.

Homework

You will be assigned homework sometimes. This may include reports, reviews, outlines, *et cetera*. Make sure that your name, class (Theatre I), and the date are in the top left-hand corner. **Late homework will be marked down one letter grade for each day late.**

When you type assignments, please double space, and use size 12 Times New Roman style font.

Much homework will come in the form of preparation for pantomimes, monologues, and scenes. Time is given to practice these assignments, but it is important that you work at home, too. **Never try to wing it!**

Tests and Quizzes

You will know well in advance of tests. Quizzes may come at any time.

Performances

Throughout the year, you will perform a number of pantomimes, monologues, and scenes. You will be given instructions and grading information at the start of each assignment, and ample time to prepare. Such assignments carry as much weight as tests; it is incumbent upon you to prepare for these. During the last nine weeks, the majority of your grade will be in the form of a one-act play presented to an invited audience; this production will be the major assignment for the nine weeks.

Absences and Make-Up Work

You may make up missed work only if an absence is excused. It is *your* responsibility to make arrangements with me regarding make-up work. Per school policy, you have three days to make up missed work.

If you know you will be absent the day of a scheduled performance, please discuss this with me beforehand. This is especially important if you are involved in a group performance, as you will be affecting the work of others, as well.

A Note to Parents/Guardians

My e-mail address is located on the first page of this syllabus, as is the school phone number. I ask that you provide a phone number and/or e-mail address at which you may be contacted. Please call, e-mail, or send a note with your student with any questions or suggestions you have, or if you wish to schedule a meeting.

I have read and understand the material covered in this syllabus. The student agrees to follow all outlined procedures and rules.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Please print name here

Parent/Guardian Phone

Parent/Guardian E-mail