

Theatre Arts I

COURSE DESCRIPTION: (1 unit, Gr. 9-12) Theatre Arts I is an introductory study of theatre. Students will study voice and diction, improvisation, pantomime, acting, structure of drama, evaluation of drama, theatre history, play production, stage scenery, stage lighting, costuming, make-up, and oral interpretation/performance studies.

RATIONALE: Theatre Arts I provides students the opportunity to explore various aspects of performance associated with drama: theatre history, acting, and play production. Students practice higher-level thinking skills and problem solving, use cooperation and creativity, and improve self concept and esteem.

MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

Goal 1: Develop and apply skills to communicate ideas through theatrical performances

Objectives:

a) Script Writing:

1. Write an original scene utilizing character development and plot elements

b) Acting:

1. Use basic terms of theatre
2. Utilize warm-up techniques for preparation of body, voice and mind
3. Improvise using emotional and sensory recall
4. Apply stage movement and pantomime technique to express thoughts, feelings and actions of a character
5. Develop stage presence and voice projection through participation in performance activities.

c) Design and Technical Theatre:

1. Understand the technical aspects of theatrical production
2. Apply stagecraft skills safely
3. Safely apply technical knowledge and skills to create and/or operate functional scenery, properties, lighting, sound, costumes, makeup, and publicity

d) Directing:

1. Evaluate the director's role in creating a production
2. Block a scripted scene

e) Audience Etiquette:

1. Model appropriate audience behavior at various performances

f) Performing:

1. Rehearse, polish and present a performance for a class or invited audience

Goal 2: Select and apply theatrical elements to communicate ideas through the creation of theatre

Objectives:

a) Script Writing:

1. Identify spine, fourth wall, foil, subtext, aside, unities, and denouement

b) Acting:

1. Identify centering, counter-cross, upstaging, emotional memory, motivation, obstacle, objective, tactic, action, pitch, rate, phrasing, volume, tempo, quality, and prepared audition

c) Design and Technical Theatre:

1. Identify and apply stagecraft skills
2. Identify and apply technical knowledge and skills necessary to safely create and/or operate functional scenery, properties, lighting, sound, costumes, make-up and publicity

d) Directing:

1. Define the director's responsibility to the author's intent, script, actors, designers, technicians and the audience
2. Identify the director's role in creating a production
3. Identify the skills necessary to block a scripted scene

Goal 3: Develop and apply skills to explain perceptions about and evaluations of theatre and theatrical performance

Objectives:

a) Analysis and Evaluation:

1. Define the terminology and process of evaluation and apply this process to performances using appropriate theatre vocabulary

b) Personal Preferences:

1. Articulate, justify and apply personal criteria for critiquing dramatic texts and performances

Goal 4: Develop and apply skills necessary to make connections between theatre and other arts

Objectives:

a) Interrelationships of the Arts:

1. Compare and contrast communication methods in theatre with that of art, music and dance, and integrate more than one art form in informal and formal performances

b) Technology in the Arts:

1. Plan & incorporate the usage of hardware and software in lighting, sound, scenic elements, makeup and costuming, script writing, properties, or business and house management

c) Integration into Non-Arts Disciplines:

1. Analyze budgetary needs of the technical aspect of a theatrical production
2. Predict the fiscal responsibilities of a production (e.g., royalties, costume and set expenses)
3. Analyze a play and design a set using scale for a non-realized production
4. Use lighting equipment and accessories to demonstrate an understanding of the lighting spectrum
5. Use sound equipment to demonstrate an understanding of human hearing

Goal 5: Develop and apply skills necessary to understand the role of theatre in past and present cultures throughout the world

Objectives:

a) Research:

1. Research the cultural and historical background of a specific play

b) Theatre in Life:

1. Describe the roles of theatre, film, television and electronic media in American society
2. Discuss the origins and values of theatre arts and their place in contemporary American society.

Goal 6: Develop and apply skills necessary to understand cultural diversity and heritage as they relate to theatre

Objectives:

a) Cultural Diversity and Heritage:

1. Identify, compare and contrast the lives, works and influences of representative theatre artists from various cultures and historical time periods (e.g., Shakespeare, Moliere, Ibsen, Julie Taymor, Peter Brook, Sondheim)

b) Careers:

1. Select career and vocational opportunities in theatre and describe the training, skills, self-discipline and artistic discipline needed to pursue them