



FINE ARTS (THEATRE)

Listening is not just hearing what someone tells you word for word. You have to listen with a heart. I don't want that to sound touchy-feely; it is not. It is very hard work. - Anna Devere Smith

Course Text and Materials

- A. Downloadable Texts on the iPad
- B. Pencils/ Pens
- C. A sketchbook that can be bought through instructor for \$7.00

Course Description

The Theatre portion of the Fine Arts course is designed to teach the student the fundamentals of storytelling, the basic craft of acting, and the structure and skillsets of the theatrical designer. Throughout the course of this portion of the class, the students will create the collaborative theatrical performance element of their portfolio.

Course Goals/ Learning Outcomes/ Assessments

GENERAL THEATRE KNOWLEDGE- Assessments: Reflection Questions, Theatre Tour and Quiz

- A. Recognize and explain differences between all art forms
- B. Learn and apply to discussion theatrical vocabulary (including the roles and jobs of all theatrical artists)

ACTING AND IMPROVISATION- Assessment: Performances, Acting Background and Analysis

- A. Analyze a character in a one act play to understand motivation, inner self, and through-line
- B. Apply Michael Chekhov's acting theories to perform a character
- C. Improvise a character monologue and scene

DESIGN AND TECHNICAL THEATRE- Assessment: Design Assignments and Reflection Questions

- A. Analyze a play for design elements
- B. Research, Design, and Create set design documents
- C. Research, Design, and Create costume sketches
- D. Research, Design, and Create lighting research board
- E. Research, Design, and Create sound design for a scene

PLAYWRITING- Assessment: Play Analysis, Monologue, Scene, Ten-minute play

- A. Write a scene for a short play
- B. Write a Monologue
- C. Recognize and explain the text and context of a one act play

FINAL EXAM: Each section of Fine Arts has a contained and cumulative final exam project. For the Theatre section, the Final Exam is a set of options, based on the student's strengths: Acting, Design, Writing

Connecting to the Classroom Website

- Open Safari
- Go to www.stpatricktheatre.org
- Click on Classes link to left
- Click on FINE ARTS class button
- Click on the action button
- Add this site to your homescreen

**Student's Phrases for Success**

In over a decade's worth of teaching, I have learned several student phrases that hinder their success in a theatre class. Because theatre is subjective to people, people don't always know how a teacher can objectively grade or respond to their work. This subject requires vulnerability and empathy, and those are difficult to measure. Below are common phrases used, over the years, by students with better options:

Don't Say to Mr. Arndt	What Mr. Arndt hears:	What to say instead to Mr. Arndt:
"Well, I'm not a theatre kid/actor/ designer, so..."	You can't fail me because I don't even want to do this."	"What feedback can you give me to improve, Mr. Arndt?"
"I'm so confused..."	"There are too many steps... I'm focused on just one step...I wasn't listening, but now I am..."	"Mr. Arndt, can you explain this step further...Can I take this one step at a time?"
"What do you mean we have homework, a test, an assignment"	"I never expect to work outside of class in this class..."	"What is the assignment and when/how is it due?"
"Are we doing anything fun today?"	"Entertain me, monkey."	(Asked after looking at the schedule) "So, where do we start today?"
"What do you mean we have to _____, this isn't English, Science, Math, etc"	"I don't have to use skills from other classes when I'm not in them, and I certainly won't be using skills in this class EVER."	"Wow, this is just like what we are learning in English, Math, Science, etc...Good thing I can apply those skills to this..."
"Why did you give me an F in Participation?"	"I expect to come here, make some jokes, relax with my friends, and I should get an A..."	"Mr. Arndt, I noticed my participation grade is low, what can I do to improve it?"
(After low-level work is presented) "Well, I did my best."	"I did not do my best, but if I say that I did, I should get an A. When I don't get an A, I'm going to be mad because I told you I did my best."	"Mr. Arndt, this was not so successful because _____. What can I do to improve that in the future?"

Weekly Schedule

WEEK	ACTIVITIES	ASSESSMENT
1	What is Art? What is Interpretation? Storytelling and the Areas of Theatre	Create, stage, and design a story
2	Synthanalysis and Playreading Improvisation	Short Play Analysis Nonverbal Performances
3	Archetypes and Characters	Create a character monologue Improvise using Archetypes
4	Theatre Design and Technical Theatre -Set Design -Costume Design -Lighting Design -Sound Design	Costume Sketches Set Sketches Lighting Design Board Sound Design
5	Playwriting	Writing a Ten-Minute Play Staged Reading
6	Final Exams	Read a One Act Play Final Project