

"We live in what is, but we find a thousand ways not to face it. Great theatre strengthens our faculty to face it."
-Thornton Wilder

2018-2019
Saint Patrick High School
Course 352 Theatre Arts
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
TA 160: Theatre Appreciation

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Course Text and Materials

Downloadable text and plays provided by instructor

Pencils/ Pens

A 1 subject notebook that will serve as a student's journal

Course Description

An introductory study of the drama and theatre of the past and present, the course is designed for the student who has no previous background in theatre or who is interested in furthering their knowledge of the elements and practices common to the theatre arts. This course is directed toward gaining a greater understanding of theatre in our culture and will focus on enabling the student, as an audience member, to engage in, analyze, and appreciate theatre. The student will explore acting, directing, playwriting, construction & design, dramaturgy (history), etc. It is a goal to impress upon the students how theatre has enriched humanity and reacted for and against society since its beginnings. This will be couched in a group experience in which the students will create ensemble mock theatre companies.

Course Goals

- * To foster openness and appreciation of a variety of theatrical expressions in our culture.
- * To enhance the student's ability, through historical and cultural background, to engage in critical dialogue about theatre production and dramatic literature.
- * To develop the vocabulary and concepts to articulate the student's reactions to theatrical experiences.
- * To place many other experiences and elements into a more holistic perspective through the study and appreciation of theatre.

Learner Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- * Understand what makes theatre different from other art and entertainment forms.
- * Define and utilize theatrical vocabulary and understand how they apply to the different collaborators that make theatre.
- * Understand the roles of the various artists who contribute to the creation of theatre.
- * Discuss basic theories of acting and directing
- * Discuss technical and design practices
- * Recognize the structural elements of a play and employ them in writing a short play.
- * Develop criteria for intelligent and constructive criticism of a play.
- * Discuss theatre's connection to culture and vice versa.

Assessment

Assessment opportunities for students to demonstrate how well he has mastered the above learner outcomes include the following:

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Participation- In this class, silence is NOT golden! This class is based solely upon RESPONSIBLE student participation. We will have discussions, create group projects, share performance work, and teach each other what theatre means to us. In the spirit of this, participation will weigh heavily on the student's grade; this grade will change based on the student's work ethic in class. 10% of the total grade.

Journal Work – YOU MUST KEEP A JOURNAL DURING THIS CLASS. We will work in it just about every day. This is a place to honestly write about your observations, answer questions, do homework, and to share your impressions of your/other student's progress. 15% of the total grade.

Acting, Directing, and Design Assignments & Quizzes – Each content area will have assignments that you will be required to create, interpret, or research. These will ALL go into your portfolio. Along with these assignments, there will be quizzes given periodically throughout the class. 25% of the total grade.

Theatre Reviews – Each student will be required to see two plays this semester. One of the plays will be the fall play. THIS IS MANDATORY! There is NO MAKE UP for missing this play. For each of the plays, the student must write a review following the format that the teacher will be providing. 20% of the total grade.

Performances- Each student will create characters for and perform in various styles and scripts over the course of the semester. 10% of the total grade.

FINAL EXAM – The final exam will be a capstone project that the students will create in conjunction with the instructor. 20% of the total grade.

A more detailed list with the point value of the various course assignments will be forthcoming.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken. Since Speech is a participation course, and runs on a very tight schedule, regular attendance is necessary; this will be seen in the participation grade.

Missed/Late Assignments

Failure to take a test on the assigned day will result in no credit for that test, unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Similarly, daily assignments are not accepted after the due date unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. All performances and presentations must be completed to pass the course.

Disability Policy Statement

Saint Patrick High School does not discriminate in the admission of students based upon ethnic or national backgrounds, race, religion, or physical disability for which reasonable accommodations can be made.

Academic Dishonesty

Students at Saint Patrick High School should pursue their education with honesty and integrity. This means that a student's work and achievement should be the result of his own efforts. The following methods of academic dishonesty are not allowed: copying another's homework, possession of a test or exam, cheating on quizzes or tests, plagiarism of any kind, that is, passing off another's work as one's own. Any act of academic dishonesty will result in a 0 for the grade and will be reported to the Director of Curriculum.

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NOTE: The course syllabus and schedule are decided by the instructor and are subject to change.

Connecting to the Classroom Page

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

Extra Credit Opportunities

Listed below are possible options for extra credit. PLEASE NOTE THAT EXTRA CREDIT CAN ONLY BE RECEIVED IF ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE UP TO DATE!

Auditioning/ Technical Interviews – You can receive up to 30 points for becoming a part of the fall play. There are positions available both onstage and backstage. The amount of points will be judged by the instructor upon completion of the play.

Theatre Review - You can receive up to 20 points for writing an additional play review. Details will be given by the instructor. Your extra review must adhere to the review assignment noted above.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Weeks	Unit	Activities
Week One: Theatre is Community	Theatre and Ensemble Building	Ensemble Building Games
Week Two: Theatre is Ritual	Origins of Theatre/ Ritual	Ritual
Week Three: Theatre is Timeless	Playwriting/ Adaptation	Adaptation
Week Four: Theatre is Spiritual	Medieval Theatre/ Morality	Morality Play
Week Five: Theatre is Silly	Commedia/ Masks	Commedia Mask/ Character
Week Six: Theatre is Heightened Language	Renaissance/ Shakespeare	Shakespeare Joust
Week Seven: Theatre is Heightened Language	Renaissance/ Shakespeare	Shakespeare Scene
Week Eight: Theatre is Technical	Design Set and Costumes	Set/ Costume Design
Week Nine: Theatre is Technical	Design Lights and Sound	Sound/ Light Design
Week Ten: Theatre is Social Change	Theatre of the Oppressed	Forum Performance
Week Eleven: Theatre is Reflective	Directing/ Reflection	Directing Images
Week Twelve: Theatre is Celebratory	Day of the Dead	Calavera Poem
Week Thirteen: Theatre is Community	Group Theatre/ Modern Acting	8 Line Scene
Week Fourteen: Theatre is Entertainment	Musical Theatre	Musical
Week Fifteen: Theatre is a Part of our City	Chicago Theatre	Chicago Theatre Profile
Week Sixteen: Theatre is a Business	Professional Theatre	2 Minute Play
Week Seventeen: Theatre has Deadlines	Final Exam Prep	Final Exam
Week Eighteen: Theatre is a Collaboration	Final Exams	Final Exam