



2021-2022 COURSE SYLLABUS

BEGINNING DRAMA

Fall 2021 – Spring 2022

A-G Compliant Course

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*"All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances..."*
-Shakespeare, *As You Like It* (Act II, Scene 7)

INTRODUCTION

Beginning Drama is designed to give the student an appreciation of the world of theatre and an opportunity to discover the artist we each hold within. In this year, students will focus primarily on movement and emoting through gesture, as well as monologue, scene-acting with a partner, character analysis, and play analysis. This course, if done right, enriches student's awareness, skills and self-appreciation enabling them to build a foundation for future arts development. Beginning Drama provides for diverse learning styles and capabilities and allows students to experience the joy that comes from artistic communication.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a 10-credit course that fulfills Fine Arts A-G requirements, as well as Electives Graduation requirements. We will learn movement, emoting, vocal manipulation, scene study, and performance.

PEDAGOGY

Participation is vital to your success in this class. There will be a range of efforts you'll have to make, but by no means will you be expected to do so as an expert. The most important thing for this class is the trust necessary for people to engage in the process of acting. My efforts will be largely toward encouraging that environment.

REQUIREMENTS

Students will be required to bring their own pens, paper, and folder/binder for this class daily. Additionally, they will need to bring any work, notes, or handouts, to class that the instructor has given out. Write in blue or black ink only. Students will need to bring comfortable clothing for moving around freely. Finally, wear your masks.

BINDER/FOLDER



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Keep your binder or folder in chronological order. Put dates at the top right of any notes, work, or handouts, and keep them with the most recent on top.

ESSENTIAL CLASS RULES

- Be kind.
- Be honest.
- Use a pen for any assignment you turn in.

PLAGIARISM POLICY

Plagiarism is the deliberate use of another's work to pass off as one's own, be it copying from someone else's work or finding other people's work online. This is especially tempting when it comes to redoing work. It is rarely difficult to spot. You need to do your own work, or you will not learn the language. To copy/plagiarize/cheat is to disrespect the already very generous redo policy. If you are caught doing so, you and your plagiarism partner will receive a zero on that assignment. A second instance will result in possibly failing the entire course. Dishonesty is easy to engage in, and very difficult to come back from. Don't start.

PARTICIPATION POLICY

Participation in a Drama class is not optional. Virtually all assignments are performance-based assignments. Do so in good faith.

TARDY POLICY

It's important to be on time in a class where performances are happening. Tardies can disrupt a sensitive scene or interfere with its timing. The school has a tardy policy - adhere to that.

CELL PHONE POLICY

- Your phone needs to be in your pocket or in your bag. This is non-negotiable. The abundance of cameras runs directly counter to the emotional safety needs of this particular class. If you have some overriding need to have your phone out, you must obtain my consent. I don't mind you asking.
- Your phone needs to be on silent - not vibrate, not ring. Before performances, I will tell everyone to set their phones on silent, so that they do not interfere with the performances.
- I cannot charge it for you.

GRADING POLICY



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- A = 80-100%
- B = 60-79.99%
- C = 40-59.99%
- D = 20-39.99%
- F = 0-19.99%

There will be a small amount of written assignments, as well as performances. I will also provide you with a rubric for how I will be grading your performances.

Any *completed* written work for which you did not receive a satisfactory grade can be redone. Simply redo it before the assignment is begun, and staple the old corrected work to the back of the new improved work. I will always take the highest of the two grades. This is an easy way to keep your grade up.

MAKE-UP WORK

I will allow make-up work for written assignments if the following conditions are met:

- You provide me with an excused absence **or**
- You email or tell me ahead of time about the planned absence, and we arrange for you to make up the work

A performance must have an audience, so we will have to schedule it during class at a later date.

BASIC COURSE OUTLINE

- Quarter 1 - History of Theater, Movement and Emotion
- Quarter 2 - Mimicry, Movement, Emotion, and Performance
- Quarter 3 - Monologue, Critique, Improvement, Performance
- Quarter 4 - Scene Study, Dialogue, Critique, Improvement, Performance

FINAL INFORMATION

This syllabus, and all of the information contained therein, is subject to change at the teacher's discretion. Especially this year. I want you to succeed. You just need to want to as well.

MOVIES AND MUSIC

At times, we will watch movies and listen to music in this class. Some words and images will be considered adult themes, including language, violence, and brief partial nudity, as often seen in a theater. Your parents/guardians must sign this slip if they do not want you to see these movies. If they do not have a



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problem with this, then **this does not need to be signed**. I assure you and your parents/guardians that the movies are picked with the utmost educational value in mind, not for entertainment value.

By signing here, I affirm that I **DO NOT** want my child to watch movies in Mr. Harmony's Drama class. I understand that his choices are educationally-minded, but I do not find them acceptable for my child/ward to watch. I understand that my child will not suffer any scholastic pressure to watch these movies, and that a fair and alternate assignment will be given.

parent/guardian signature

date

printed name

I understand, and though I may not like them, I fully accept Mr. Harmony's terms and methods for my learning Drama from him. My signature at the bottom of this page signifies my deliberate agreement to abide by Mr. Harmony's requirements. Failure to turn in this signature sheet signifies my tacit consent to abide by Mr. Harmony's requirements.



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student signature

date

printed name

I have read, and though my child may not want me to, I also agree to help hold my child to the high standards he/she deserves to be held to. I fully understand Mr. Harmony's intentions, policies, and reasons. Failure to sign is my tacit acceptance of these terms.

parent/guardian signature

date

printed name

night-time phone number to contact

daytime phone number to contact

email address – please print legibly