

DRAMA I COURSE OVERVIEW

The 11th Grade Drama course introduces students to the elements of theater as a fine arts discipline, specifically as part of the liberal arts tradition. In this course students will learn how to think about theater as an art and as a craft through the plays of Shakespeare. Students will grow in confidence on stage and will understand the creative and technical aspects of theatre, allowing them to experience drama with a fuller appreciation of the work involved.

REQUIRED TEXTS/MATERIALS:

<u>Provided by Instructor:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11th Grade Supplemental Materials• Play Scripts	<u>Materials Not Provided:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ERASABLE colored pens or pencils• Highlighters• Binder with loose leaf paper or notebook• Lined 5x8" Index Cards• Small Post-It tabs or flags
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EVALUATION CRITERIA

SENSE OF WONDER AND DEPTH OF INQUIRY

Theater is a physical, emotional, and mental discipline, and students will be engaged as *whole persons* throughout the course. Therefore, a student's sense of wonder and depth of inquiry will show not only in the quality of his or her final performance, but also in how the student embraces his or her work through the learning process. **Courage, seen in the willingness to risk failure on a daily basis, and humility, seen in charity toward oneself and others, is fundamental for growth.** Students who show an enthusiasm for discovering more about themselves and others through stage work will find their hearts, minds, and bodies trained toward artistic excellence and virtuous maturity.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

Drama is fundamentally participatory, and requires a willingness to put in constant mental, emotional, and physical effort. Students will be asked to participate in discussions about characters, stories, and art generally. They will be asked to engage in acting exercises, both individually and in groups. They will perform monologues for their classmates and the instructor. They will also be asked to give constructive feedback to fellow classmates and receive such feedback. Finally, they will give a public performance of one Shakespeare play. Students who are fully engaged, humble and open to the thoughts and experiences of others, and possess a strong, joyful work ethic will do well in drama class.

HOMEWORK AND WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

Homework is an essential part of the work in Drama. Written homework assignments are usually in the form of journal entry reflections and text annotation and analysis. They are given weekly and are due on the last day of each week (e.g., if there is no school on Friday the assignment is due on Thursday). Text work occurs throughout the course. Additional assignments may be given at instructor's discretion.

In addition to written assignments, a significant portion of the homework for this course is line memorization. The roles assigned to each student per scene should lend themselves to memorization

within the time available. Students will be taught many memorizing techniques and are encouraged to talk to me if they need further guidance.

Late assignments will be accepted for reduced credit up to the performance (e.g., assignments in preparation for a monologue performance will not be accepted after the performance period is over).

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS:

Students will be expected to attend a professional theatrical production during the semester and give an oral presentation reviewing the production. *Community and school theater productions are not eligible.* There are a handful of standard professional theaters in the Valley:

Southwest Shakespeare Company (<http://www.swshakespeare.org>)

Arizona Theatre Company (<http://www.arizonatheater.org>)

Phoenix Theater (<http://www.phoenixtheatre.com>)

ASU Gammage Theater (<https://www.asugammage.com/>)

Arizona Regional Theater (<https://www.arizonaregionaltheatre.org/>)

Childsplay Theater: (<http://www.childsplayaz.org/>)

Black Theater Troupe (<https://www.blacktheatretroupe.org/>)

Students with questions about other companies should check with Mrs. Lindsay before purchasing tickets.

Many companies have student or rush ticket discounts. It is important that students do the research to find tickets at a reasonable price, and plan well in advance.

EXAMS/QUIZZES:

Students will be assessed regularly on their engagement with the material, both preparedness and growth in understanding and technique, in three ways:

1. **Unit Quizzes and Tests.** Students will be evaluated on their comprehension of unit material, presented through handouts, discussion, and notes on the board.
2. **Memorization Quizzes.** Students will be given a memorization schedule and have weekly quizzes during the initial memorization process. They will also be quizzed weekly during rehearsals to make sure they are completely off-book.
3. **Performances.** Students will have five performance exams: two monologue performances, one dress rehearsal, and two play performances. These will be graded as quarter and semester exams.

Students are required to attend dress rehearsal in the evening the week of the performance. Because it is a mandatory portion of the grade, students must make arrangements for work, sports, and other obligations.

GRADING EXPECTATIONS:

- ★ Be responsible for every part of the course. Homework and classwork weigh just as heavily as assessments and performances, and the work is challenging.

- ★ Be ready to work as soon as class begins. Take initiative to work independently and anticipate tasks without prompting or reminders. Be proactive in communicating with me if you need clarification or assistance. *The ability to show responsibility is a significant part of your grade.*
- ★ Participate in every task willingly, with full commitment. Acting is not about memorizing and delivering lines. Actors must demonstrate the ability to speak the text with clarity and conviction, and to physically express the emotional life of their character.
- ★ Actively pursue what is true, good, and beautiful! Theater is an art that uniquely shapes who we become and the way we see the world. Through it we must reflect on ourselves, both critically and charitably, so that we can learn to love what is truly valuable and be changed by it.

Attendance and Missed Work Policy

In case of absence, you are responsible to find out what work you have missed, so always check with me when you return. In the case of unplanned absence, you will have the number of days missed to make up work after returning to school. If you are absent on the day of a quiz you should expect to take it the day you return since all quizzes are announced well in advance.

Mandatory Rehearsal & Performance Dates

- Tech Rehearsal Date & Time: Wednesday, November 30, 5:30-7:30 pm
- Dress Rehearsal Date & Time: Thursday, December 1, 8:15-3:15 pm
- Performance Date & Times: Friday, December 2 @ 1:15 (students) and 6:30 (public)

Receipt of Permission

- ☐ I know to use the **Cicero Drama Blog** (www.ciceroprep.greatheartamerica/academics/cicerodrama.org) for course details throughout the semester.
- ☐ I have read and understood Mrs. Lindsay's suggestions and policies for Drama I and **am aware of the mandatory tech and performance days and times, as well as the professional play attendance requirement.**

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Drama I Student Goals

- ❖ Grow in awareness of reality through encountering beauty in theater.
- ❖ Develop physical, emotional, and mental maturity through the lives of other characters.
- ❖ Learn to appreciate theater as an *art* and as a *craft*.

CLASS RULES (The Four “C”s):

Be Curious ~ Have Courage ~ Lead With Charity ~ Take Correction

1. *Be Curious.* Ask “why?” constantly. Drama invites us to wrestle with the big questions of life, and the more we want to know the more our joy can grow.
2. *Have Courage.* Persist in the face of obstacles. We cannot grow if we don’t allow ourselves to make mistakes and overcome them.
3. *Lead With Charity.* Care for the well-being of others as oneself. Actively encouraging and building one another up through constructive (not critical) words builds kindness toward ourselves too.
4. *Take Correction.* Don’t take feedback personally. When we have the willingness to humbly receive feedback, we gain the self-knowledge and mastery necessary for a happy life.

STUDENT SUCCESS:

- Take written and memorization work seriously. You will be evaluated individually, but the work is fundamentally collaborative.
 - ◆ Completing homework assignments regularly and reviewing notes will help you be successful on tests and quizzes. Failure to take good notes and complete assignments will have a cascading effect not only on your grade, but also on your stagework.
 - ◆ The entire class depends on you knowing your lines. To help you remain accountable, memorization quizzes are only available for full credit on the scheduled date, and unpreparedness will result in one lower grade per school day the quiz is delayed.
- Take risks. Stage work is hard for everyone. It requires vulnerability to mistakes and failures. There is no such thing as a “theater type” person. You must trust the growth process. We are here to learn, not to compare talents.
- Think deeply. Theater does not exist merely for entertainment but is a pursuit that shapes who we become and the way we see the world. I want to see you reflecting on how becoming characters on stage shapes our personal character, and how our personal character shapes our ability to become characters on stage. Our encounters with beauty shapes our capacity for attention to all of reality.
- Actively pursue what is true, good, and beautiful! Theater is an art that uniquely shapes who we become and the way we see the world. Through it we must reflect on ourselves, both critically and charitably, so we can learn to love what is truly valuable and be changed by it.