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Cicero Preparatory Academy
2022-2023

DRAMA II COURSE OVERVIEW

The 12th Grade Drama course builds on the 11th grade Drama experience. Students work collaboratively to put on a production of a great work of drama, while deepening their understanding of the elements of stage production. They will build upon their skills in performance and learn the technical aspects of drama, including theater history, philosophy, and practice. They will also increase their familiarity with classical drama, giving them the ability to participate in drama on and off stage with a deep appreciation of the art and craft of storytelling.

REQUIRED TEXTS/MATERIALS:

<u>Provided by Instructor:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12th Grade Supplemental Materials• Play Scripts	<u>Materials Not Provided:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pencil with eraser• ERASABLE colored pens or pencils• Highlighters• Binder and loose-leaf paper• Lined 5x8" Index Cards (actors only)• 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 dialectic discussions about theater history, philosophy, and practice. They will be asked to engage in discussion about characters, stories, and art generally. They will be asked to give constructive feedback to fellow classmates and receive such feedback. Finally, they will give two public performances of a full-length play.

HOMEWORK AND WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

In 12th grade students are introduced to elements of theater history and philosophy as well as industry practice, and they will have regular reading, writing, and oral assignments in addition to script work. While all students in 12th Drama will learn a deeper appreciation for story-building in performance, they will also divide into two groups: actors and technicians. Homework assignments will vary depending on each student's specific role. Assignments may fall, but are not limited to, the following categories:

- ❖ Reading content-related handouts for discussion (ALL students)
- ❖ Completing dramaturgical research and written analyses (ALL students)
- ❖ Reading and annotating dramatic scripts (ALL students)
- ❖ Developing character and story analysis (ACTORS)
- ❖ Memorizing and rehearsing character lines (ACTORS)
- ❖ Drawing technical designs for costumes and sets (TECHNICIANS)
- ❖ Creating detailed lists and schedules for organization (TECHNICIANS)
- ❖ Meeting outside of class time to build sets, costumes, props, and lighting (TECHNICIANS)
- ❖ Creating design boards and binders to display dramaturgical work (TECHNICIANS)

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/Tech Benchmark Quizzes.** Each week actors will have memorization quizzes throughout the semester. This includes both initial memorization (weekly Wednesdays) and

off-book memorization (after blocking is completed). Each week technicians will have assignment benchmark quizzes tailored to the scheduling of their roles.

3. **Performances.** Both actors and technicians will be evaluated on the beauty and technical precision of their work. They must attend all tech and dress rehearsals for full performance credit eligibility. Students will have four performance exams: one tech rehearsal, one dress rehearsal, and two play performances. These will be graded as quarter and semester exams.

Students are required to attend all tech and dress rehearsals during performance week. 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. Actors must demonstrate the ability to speak the text with clarity and conviction, and to physically express the emotional life of their character. Technicians should demonstrate the ability to support the text and text-speakers with a thorough understanding of the story and pursue its beauty through audio and visual components.
- ★ 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.

ROLES:

In 12th grade students will graduate to performing a full-length fully-realized play. This means they will learn technical aspects of theater as well as develop a deeper knowledge of acting. Areas of technical theater include **assistant directing, stage management, set design & construction, costume design & construction, sound & props design & construction, and marketing/communications**. While students will be evaluated by Mrs. Lindsay, technicians will be working under the supervision of two technical directors, Mrs. Charity Conner (costumes) and Mr. Walter Lindsay (sets & props).

Mrs. Conner will assist students in the design, production, maintenance, and care of costumes. She will help students learn how appearance communicates and how wearing various kinds of clothing can act as a language. Students will design costumes that help tell the story of the characters and bring out their traits. In the production and maintenance of costumes, Mrs. Conner will teach students certain hand-sewing and machine work skills. She may employ the assistance of students some Saturdays to collect items from thrift stores, etc. *Mrs. Conner's classroom hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays after casting.*

Mr. Lindsay will help students understand how sets and props enable the audience to engage the story the actors tell on stage. There is no stage production without the skill and artistry of the technical team, and students will experience everything from tool safety to the architectural aspects of space and the necessity for historical research and artistic focus for set and prop design. *Mr. Lindsay's classroom hours will be Thursdays after casting AND scheduled Tech Saturdays.*

- While the work required of technicians is different than of actors, it is just as demanding. *Technicians must be available to work outside of class time, including occasional Saturdays, and should expect their time commitment to increase in the final weeks leading up to performances.* Students seeking tech roles must have parents' permission and sign the tech contract.
- Workload for actors is most intensive during the first quarter of the semester, while workload for technicians is most intensive during the second quarter of the semester.

Roles—both acting and technical—will be assigned through the formal audition process. In addition to a monologue performance, those who would prefer a technical role must also write an application letter explaining their fittedness for the job. While students have the opportunity to request their desired parts in the production, roles (both acting and technical) will be assigned with the class as a whole in mind.

Attendance and Missed Work Policy

In case of absence, you are responsible to find out what you missed. 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 must take it the day you return since all quizzes are announced in advance.

Mandatory Rehearsal & Performance Dates

- TECH REHEARSAL DAY & TIME: Wednesday, November 16, 5:00-9:00 pm
- DRESS REHEARSAL DAY & TIME: Thursday, November 17, 8:15-3:15 pm (school hours)
- PERFORMANCE DATE & TIME: Friday, November 18 @ 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 II and **am aware of the mandatory tech and performance days and times, as well as the professional play attendance requirement.**

Student Signature

Parent Signature