

THEATRE ARTS 1 SYLLABUS

Mike Doggett (mdoggett@iisd1.org)

The student will develop concepts about self, human relationships, and the environment using elements of drama and conventions of theatre. The student will interpret characters using the voice and body expressively, and will create dramatizations. The student will apply design, directing, and theatre production concepts and skills. The student will relate theatre to history, society and culture. The student will respond to and evaluate theatre and theatrical performances.

I. NOTEBOOK:

- You will be required to maintain a section for this course in a 3-ring binder. Extra paper and a pen are always required. Bring your notebook to class everyday. Keep all class work in your binder. Be prepared for spot checks during the semester.

II. IN CLASS EXPECTATIONS:

- You are expected to show considerate, attentive and supportive behavior in class at all times to all persons. When other students are giving performances, they need your support as you will need their support when you are giving a performance. Do not enter or leave the class or theater during a performance. Students with improper audience etiquette will lose points or their performance grade. Racial/sexual slurs are not permitted in this class at any time.
- **You will have to memorize lines and perform in front of the class.**
- **Each Student will have a major acting project due each six weeks.** Due date will be given each six weeks, be wise and use the time I give you in class to rehearse. Acting project topics will be given at the beginning of each six weeks. Some of the different types of projects might be:
 1. Monologues, (original or non-original) - time limit of 3 minutes.
 2. Group & Single Improvisations, (original) – time limit of 4 minutes for group and 2 for single.
 3. Scenes from plays, two or more actors, no more than four per group. Time limit 5 minutes for two people, 7 minutes for three, and 10 minutes for four people in a group.
 4. A one man or woman show – a performance based on a historical person.
 5. Readers Theater – An interpretive reading from a play – one or more in a group – no more than four – time limit 10 minutes.
- Material selected for class performance will be suitable for general audiences. Editing language or content of the material is YOUR responsibility. If you have questions, ask your instructor.
- You are expected to follow all school rules while in the class or theater.
- **EXEMPTIONS** – Students who are caught with chewing gum or have a zero for any speech or major grade during the semester will NOT be able to exempt this class.

III. OUT OF CLASS EXPECTATIONS:

- You will write several short (typed) internet research papers and during the year, on topics I give you.
- You will present several oral reports during the year, on topics I give you.
- You will have the opportunity to participate in IHS theatre productions in either acting or technical positions. The instructor will give you information and dates for the auditions. This is optional and NOT required.

IV. MAKEUP WORK:

- You are responsible for your own make up work. The instructor will not remind you of it. When deadlines are not met a 0 will be recorded.

V. GRADING:

- Grades are given in the following areas: performances, audience etiquette, pop quizzes, homework, tests, projects and overall attitude in the classroom toward your instructor, fellow classmates and notebooks. You will be given many participation grades during the semester. This is time given in class to prepare for performances. This time should not be wasted! It is impossible to give a meaningful performance without preparation. You will receive a 0 or a low grade if you do little to nothing during the time I give you. I do not always take participation grades and will not tell you when I do, so **DON'T WASTE TIME!**

- You will not be graded on talent but your individual growth and how well you prepare and apply what you learn.
- The majority of your grades will come from giving performances in front of the class.
- Grades: Daily work 40% & Test, Performances and Projects 60%
- **Late Work:** Any theatre performance is the same as a test. If a student does not present their acting assignment on the day it is due a grade of zero will be recorded. It's the same as turning in a test with nothing on it.
 - Theater performances and projects will be assigned in advance and students will know the day their performance is due in advance and will be given time in class to work on their performances.
 - If student is absent on the day a performance is due their performance will be due the next day the student is back in school.
 - Students will be given extra time (per district policy) if absent for several days due to illness or other reasons.

VI. CLASSROOM RULES:

DO NOT TALK WHEN THE TEACHER IS TALKING!

- **NO FOOD OR DRINK OF ANY KIND IN THE CLASS OR THEATER!**
- **DO NOT SIT ON TOP OF A TABLE AT ANY TIME FOR ANY REASON!**
- **NO GUM – STUDENTS WILL LOSE EXEMPTION WHEN CAUGHT THE FIRST TIME!**
- **DO NOT LEAN BACK IN CHAIRS!**
- **DO NOT** throw or fight with large pillows, they will rip open. Students who are ruff with the pillows will have to sew them up.
- **ALL BAGS, BACKPACKS AND PURSES MUST REMAIN ON THE FLOOR, UNDER TABLES, NOT ON TOP OF TABLES!**
- **STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO GET UP FROM TABLES WITHOUT PERMISSION.**
- No horse play in the class or theater.
- Be in your seat and ready to work when the bell rings.
- Do not ask to leave class unless you have a teacher note.
- Students are not allowed in the theater without permission unless going to the restroom.
- Students are not allowed in storage rooms without permission.
- Be cooperative, supportive and attentive during all performances.
- Only one person may go to the restroom at a time.
- Push your chairs in before you leave.
- Only three chairs per table, students are not allowed to sit with their backs to the teacher or to the inside of the large open area of the room.

VII. BEHAVIOR

- You are responsible for your own behavior. Your actions will determine the atmosphere of your environment.
- There is a zero tolerance for trash talk, making fun of other students, off color remarks, negative body language, or attitude in this class! If you do it expect to be punished!