

Drama 1: Fundamentals of Acting for High School

Instructor: Tamara Geisler



"Instead of focusing on your differences, let's revisit your shared love of the theater."

Class Description:

Welcome to Drama 1: Fundamentals of Acting! In this class student will be introduced to the foundational skills of performance. From learning the classical styles of theatre to devising skits students will gain a wide range of experience exploring different topics to enhance their acting abilities. This class will help students develop their practice and awareness of performance, physicality, improvisation, voice, creativity, stage technique, text analysis and character analysis. Students will critically engage with classic theatre texts as well as culturally responsive contemporary plays.

Content that will be covered:

Pantomime

Improvisation

Classical Theatre: (Greek, Commedia, Shakespeare)

Monologues

Scene Study

Devising

Class Expectations

Participation:

This class will be primarily hands on and up on your feet. Everyone will be expected to participate in all warm ups, games, activities, and acting exercises. Regular attendance is required.

Respect, Openness and Kindness:

The Drama classroom is a space for creative expression and exploration, as such students are expected to be sensitive, kind and respectful towards their fellow classmates. Students are encouraged to be open and explore out-of-the box ideas. Expand your comfort zone. Personal stories that are discussed and shared in class should stay in the class. Be attentive and courteous to all classmates, teachers and guests. The classroom and theatre space should always be treated with respect and left in the manner in which it was found.

Responsibility and Effort:

Take responsibility over your learning. Put in an honest effort into all class endeavors. If you do the work, you will see the results.

Seating:

There are no assigned seats. However, the teacher reserves the right to assign seats based off of disruptive behavior. Students will be given warning that they are in danger of having assigned seats before seating will be changed.

Electronic Devices:

Must be put away and out of sight during class time. If seen, one warning will be given. If seen again, device will be confiscated until the end of the day.

Community Agreements:

Students will work as a group to add expectations they envisage for our classroom.

What you can expect from me:

To provide a safe, flexible and supportive environment that honors each student. I will utilize preferred identifiers when addressing each student (pronouns, names etc.). I invite students to advocate for themselves and come to me with their thoughts, questions, concerns and needs. I hope to honor and empower each member of the classroom, so that each student can have agency and optimize their learning.

Class Materials

- Notebook (can be any size, this will serve as a journal)
- Writing utensils
- Clothes that you can move in
- Folder

Classroom Bookshelf:

You are welcome to look through any books and plays on the bookshelf during down times. If searching for monologue or scene work, you may physically copy or photocopy those pages. Books/plays may not be taken home.

Grading Policy

Participation/Attendance 30%

Classwork/Homework Assignments 30%

Performances/Presentations/Projects 40%

Grade Breakdown:

A	90 – 100%
B	80 – 89%
C	70 – 79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Absences and Assignments

Attendance and Participation:

Regular attendance is required. Do not come to class late. For every day a student is present they gain 5 points towards their participation grade. Two lateness will count as one absence. Students that are present are required to actively participate in all activities.

Assignments/Late Work:

Assignments will be given in class and for homework. Assignments should be submitted on time. Students with an excused absence may submit missing work the week following their return. All other late work will receive a half point deduction for every late day. Students may not submit work over two weeks late.

Extra credit:

Extra credit will be given to students who attend performances outside the classroom and write a 2-3-paragraph critical examination of the production. Key terms, themes and topics reviewed in class must be referenced. Students may submit up to two extra credit assignments. More information upon request.

Theatre Agreement

See next page.

Theatre Agreement:

Student and parent signature required.

I have read through the class syllabus. By signing this document I agree to follow all the expectations, policies and procedures for the class.

Student Name:

Student Signature and Date:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Parent/Guardian Signature and Date:

Parent/Guardian Phone Number and Email address:

Comments/Concerns: