

☺Willkommen, Bienvenue, Welcome!☺

General Class Procedures and Information for Theatre Arts II Production Class

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Textbook: Glencoe, *The Stage and the School* ISBN 0-02-817234-5

General Course Description and Expectations:

My Theatre Arts II course is designed to be a production class, with required performances, including competition preparation and a mainstage production. As this is a level II class, the assumed and expected pre-requisite for this course is Theatre Arts I or a direct recommendation from me. If you have not met this pre-requisite, you will be switched out of this class. As a reminder, these are the types of activities found in my theatre arts classes:

- Acting, and other types of performance, including singing and dancing: Expect to speak in front of the class-often. We will study different types of acting styles, as well as various speeches and oral interpretation. You will be expected to take part in all acting and choreography assignments.

- Dramaturgy, theatre history, and research: We may explore the major types of theatre and track theatre movement from the Greek masters to the modern musicals. You may research major playwrights, as well as theatrical structures and production histories.

- Theatre literature-reading and analysis: There is the potential for quite a bit of reading in this course. Be prepared to read and discuss historical/biographical information, plays and excerpts, and theatrical theory.

- Aspects of technical theatre and production: You will learn about the jobs of the people who make a theatrical performance happen. Discussions and projects dealing with costumes, make up, directing, and set/light/sound designs are all possibilities. There may be opportunities to watch live and televised productions during the course of the semester.

- Manifestations of theatre in other media, such as RTF (Radio, Television, Film): We will look at the impact that theatre has on these media, as well as the influence that pop culture has had on theatre through the ages.

- Playwriting and literary adaptation: There may be opportunities to create original pieces of theatre, as well as chances to adapt established pieces of literature into plays.

Course Objectives (or that oh-so-official word, STANDARDS)

While it may be a bit hard to guess at first, what with all of the free-wheeling frivolity that we will have in class, my curriculum is strictly based in the state and national standards. Each lesson will include one or more (usually several) of the following state and national standards for theatre arts:

1. Script writing
2. Character Acting
3. Scene Design
4. Directing
5. Research
6. Presentation
7. Scene Comprehension
8. Context

Brief Outline of Units

You will find me NOT to be one of those teachers that teaches the same thing every year. Yes, I do follow a state-approved curriculum, but the sequence, pacing, and emphasis will truly depend on YOU. Each class has strengths and preferences, and I use those to help guide instruction.

Therefore, I will not give you a play-by-play of your upcoming semester-what's the fun in that? Instead, here are some sample units to help calm your nerves (or send you screaming to guidance, whichever the case may be...)

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| I. Getting to Know You | X. Make-up for the stage |
| II. Physical movement and pantomime | XI. Costumes and props |
| III. Voice and radio | XII. Theatre history |
| IV. Storytelling | XIII. Musical theatre |
| V. Readers theatre and choral reading | XIV. Choreography |
| VI. Monologue | XV. Theatrical adaptations of literature/playwriting |
| VII. Scene direction | XVI. Acting styles and genres |
| VIII. Scene preparation | |
| IX. Character development | |

NOW FOR SPECIFICS:

While Theatre Arts I is designed to be an introduction to theatrical aspects, all of the above will be used to create a mainstage production for Theatre Arts II.

Participation in this production (and the class) requires attendance at technical rehearsals, participation in all performances (including school matinees), and set-up and strike. This requires some very specific after-school time at other venues in Crossville, including the Palace Theatre and the SMHS. Failure to attend any of these will result in a significant lowering of the student grade. Just like with marching band, a performance class like this has required after-school obligations. Take this into consideration if you plan to stay in this class. A parental contract and signature page is at the end of this packet.

Required Production and Competition Dates (Times are approximate and may change slightly) MARK THESE DATES IN YOUR CALENDARS NOW:

Monday, February 27 Palace Theatre technical rehearsal 3:30-8:30 PM (2 test grades)

Tuesday, February 28 Palace Theatre technical/dress rehearsal 3:30-8:30 PM (2 test grades)

Wednesday, March 1 Palace Theatre Parent/Teacher/Friend preview 4:30 call/5:30 curtain

Thursday, March 2 Palace Theatre Public Performance 6PM call/7PM curtain.

Friday, March 3 Palace Theatre Public Performance 6PM call/7PM curtain. Post-show strike is mandatory.

Friday, March 31 Roane State Academic Festival during school

Saturday, April 1 Time TBA, but tentatively 6AM- 12PM SMHS in costume to help with registration and stations for the Imagination Library "Run to Read 5K and 1M Character Run."

Saturday, April 22 Prom (work/serve in costume)

There may also be an option field trip to see a production this semester.

Substantial effort and participation in all aspects of this course are required. If you imagine that you are stepping into a class that will allow you to sit back and watch it go by, think again. Plan on working-a lot, and hard. However, for open minds and energetic spirits, this will be quite a rewarding class.

Grading

Per district policy, grades are based on the following:

- Test average is 40% of nine-week term.
- Daily grade average is 40% of nine-week term.
- End-of-term exam is 20%. Everyone must take the midterm. See student handbook for exemptions to the final exam.

Supplies and fees

Materials fee: As stated in your student handbook, there is a requested materials fee for this course. Scripts, royalties, costumes, and venue rental are not subsidized by the school system. A typical Jet Theatrix production usually costs around \$2000. By borrowing materials and costumes, we hope to lower this cost by at least 50%, but we will still need help to offset costs and make the production a success. The \$10 (or as much as you can spare) class fee will help to defray these costs. If paying by check, please make it out to CCHS.

Materials to bring to class everyday:

- **PAPER** : Loose-leaf or perforated spiral is fine. Yellow, white, or recycled ruled paper are all acceptable.
- **Your scripts and other materials assigned to you for class.** Never enter this class without your stuff. It's really annoying.
- **Pencils and highlighters for staging purposes.** You should always have a pencil for marking scripts. Don't leave home without it.

Procedures for class

*Procedures are a part of life. We follow procedures for using a telephone book, boarding an airplane, approaching a traffic light, and attending a wedding. The reason we have procedures in life is so that people can function in society, knowing the **acceptable** and **efficient** ways that other people do things.*

There are also procedures in this classroom. These procedures establish our classroom culture.

Daily routine: The bell does not start class. The teacher does not start class. YOU start your class. Please follow the routine daily:

1. Enter in an orderly fashion, and go **immediately** to the appropriate seat. (Yes, you will have an assigned seat. No, begging will not positively affect where I put you, so don't.)
2. Start the "prologue" (board work).
3. Have all materials (including sharpened pencils) ready before the bells rings.
4. Stay in your seat—working quietly—unless given permission to move. Do not interrupt class by being out of your seat or sharpening pencils.

When you are tardy: You are tardy if you are not in your appropriate seat, working, when the bell rings (see class rules). **I follow the school's tardy policy.** You must sign in on the tardy log, and if you are in first block you must get a tardy pass from the office. Keep in mind the tardy policy with regard to exam exemptions.

This is a NO-WHINE Zone!

Leaving the classroom: During scheduled class time, I am legally responsible for you. Additionally, teachers are instructed to keep students in classrooms at all times. Therefore, *I am not obligated to allow you in the hall unless you are summoned with an official office pass.* I realize, though, that there are rare circumstances that might cause you to need to leave during my class without being summoned from the office. If you need to leave *for any reason* (bathroom, counselor, etc.)—and you do not have an official office pass—you must sign out, using the following procedures. Keep in mind that you will only be allowed to sign out 3 times per nine-week term. If you leave the room more than that, your participation grade will be lowered each time. Rationale: If you are not in the class, how can you participate meaningfully? Also, if you are constantly leaving, it is a severe distraction to the learning process in the classroom.

Signing out:

1. You must have my permission to leave class. I will not allow you to leave during instructional time. I reserve the right to refuse permission for you to leave, especially if I judge the reason unnecessary.
2. *You must have YOUR handbook and student ID filled out completely. Don't come up to me with someone else's or with none. I will smile sweetly to you as I say that you will need to wait until the end of the period to go. Go ahead, try it...*
3. *Sign out, filling in all information.*
4. *Make sure to take the Eiffel Tower hall pass. If it is gone, you must wait until your classmate returns with it. **Only one person at a time will leave the room without an office pass.***
4. *Sign back in and return the Eiffel Tower when you get back.*

•If you are suddenly ill: If you are going to be physically sick, just go to the bathroom. Do not waste time with passes in this case. Keep in mind, however, that I will send someone after you.

•If you have a medical reason for needing to leave class more than 3 times during the term: I must have a note from the school nurse which states the reasons for this.

*****If you leave fewer than 3 times during the term,** the remaining times may be used as 2 points extra credit each on end-of-term exams.

Conduct in the hall during class time: Permission in the hall is a *privilege*, not a right. I also would like to stress that this privilege is contingent upon my being able to *trust* you. If you do something to break that trust, such as misbehaving in the halls, or not being where you are supposed to be (like, say, the vending machines or the tanning bed), you will not be permitted to *leave for the remainder of the semester.*

When someone enters the class: Office aids and other visitors frequently enter the classroom. In order for class to run smoothly, please do not speak to them when they enter or leave.

Listening to and responding to questions: When I ask a question of the class, please raise your hand and wait to be acknowledged before saying the answer. You may always know the answer quickly, but I would like everyone to have the chance to think of the answer. I would also like for everyone to have a chance to answer questions. If you are unsure of an answer, and I call on you, try to answer the question. Chances are that someone is thinking the same thing, and if we work through the problem together, everyone will benefit. Please try to remain calm and orderly during discussions. Please wait to be given the floor to speak. We cannot have an effective discussion if everyone is talking at the same time.

Asking questions: Please follow the same procedure for asking questions as you do for answering them. In order for us to have meaningful class discussions, we must have order. Additionally, please ask only *relevant* and *appropriate* questions. **If you are simply curious about something unrelated to the topic at hand, save that question for another time.**

Working in groups and with each other: I expect for you to show the utmost respect for your classmates and yourselves. Teasing or making fun of each other will not be tolerated. When you work in groups, make sure that your voice is not loud enough for me to hear you over everyone else.

End-of-period class dismissal: The bell system in the school is not meant for students. It is simply a way of signaling teachers when the beginning and ending of instructional time is. Students do not dismiss the class. The bell does not dismiss the class. **I** dismiss the class. You may leave when I give you permission. **Do not attempt to line up by the door-you will be the last one out!** If you think that I can't block you with my formidable mass, think again. I will win.

When you need pencil or paper: You are responsible for having all necessary materials with you *every* day. If you are in need of paper or a writing utensil, ask a classmate. There is a small supply of pens, pencils, and paper in a bin at the front of the room for occasional use. Just like the little cups in gas stations: take a pencil, leave a pencil, etc.

Note taking: You are responsible for any information given in this classroom. I will frequently have ready-made notes for you to copy. However, not everything will be written. Only you know the best way for you to retain what goes on in this classroom.

When a school wide announcement is made: When an announcement is made over the intercom, it is important that we all hear what is being said. Please be silent during this time.

If I am out of the classroom: If I ever have to leave the room, you are expected to behave and follow procedures as if I were there. Continue your work.

If there is a substitute teacher: Please treat any substitute teacher with respect. If a substitute arrives late, please start class with your morning routine. Follow procedures as if I were in the room. Sub abusers will be sold into slavery, but not before an appropriate flogging.

Responding to a fire drill, earthquake, or a severe weather alert: In the rare occurrence of a fire drill or severe weather alert, please stay calm, and listen to my instructions. In theory, I will have some to give.

Grade Matters

Participation

- You will have an **active participation grade** each term. Each will count as a test grade. Assignments not receiving their own daily grades will comprise the written participation grade, and all conduct in class will comprise the active participation grade. Participation in all (yes, ALL-the singing, the dancing, the ritual sacrifice of finger puppets and staple monsters...) class activities is *required*.
- There will be some grades (including your participation grade) that I will not go through and grade exactly. Instead, I will use a series of check marks that can translate into percentages, for averaging purposes. The key to that is as follows:
 - ✓+ = 100 (Superior work; follows directions perfectly; no major mistakes in written/oral work; active and meaningful participation; extra helpful in cooperative situations; leads class discussions in an effective and meaningful way; obvious effort to go beyond what is required, etc.)
 - ✓ = 90 (A couple of minor mistakes in oral and written work, but very good; active participation; follows directions; excellent work)
 - ✓- = 70 (Notable mistakes in written/oral work, but still passable and basically complete; marginal participation; mistakes in following directions, etc.)
- For written participation, there will be no specific grades. I will assign a (+) full credit or a fractional number for the amount of credit that I award. (3/4, etc.)

Anything below a 70 will receive a number grade.

Some choices that will earn less than a passing participation grade include:

- Sleeping during class
- Being disruptive
- Not following directions

Some choices that will earn less than a passing grade on written/oral work:

- Not following directions
- Incomplete work

Extra credit: I offer a few opportunities for extra credit. These will be made available throughout the course. Any extra credit points will be applied to your daily grades-not tests.

Things to keep in mind when considering EXTRA CREDIT:

1. Extra credit in this class is NOT designed to significantly raise your grade. The points you gain from extra credit will not equal the effort that you will have to put in. It is much easier to just concentrate on being successful in my class, WITHOUT THE HELP OF EXTRA CREDIT.
2. Extra credit will NOT be accepted the last week of each grading period--no exceptions. Any extra credit turned in at that time will be credited to the next six weeks.
3. I reserve the right to limit certain types of extra credit.

Academic dishonesty (a.k.a.: Cheating): Much of what we do in this class will involve you working with other classmates. However, on assignments which call for *your own work* (quizzes, tests, certain assignments to turn in), I expect ONLY your work. If you choose to cheat, you are choosing to break my trust. You and your enabler will both receive zeros for the assignment, with a call to your parents. Additionally, you will not be allowed to leave the room for the remainder of the semester, and will not receive extra credit for any remaining passes. The rationale: *If I cannot trust you inside the room, I certainly cannot trust you outside of it.* DON'T RISK IT. I want you to succeed, I must see YOUR work to help you.

When you are absent/late and make up work:

When you are absent, it is YOUR responsibility to find out what you missed. Check the assignment log, located at the front of the room. Look under the appropriate course and date. If you have a quiz or test to make-up, you must tell me the title. **DO NOT COME TO ME AND ASK WHAT YOU NEED TO DO.** You may also find assignments on my class website, www.classjump.com/robbinsnest.

MAKE-UP AND LATE WORK:

- *You have as many days as you were absent to make up work (up to five), without being counted late. Work due the day you were absent is due when you come back. If you were in class when a test was announced, you are responsible for taking it with the class, even if you were absent the day before. If it is a school absence, work must be done ahead of time when possible, including tests and quizzes. THIS IS SCHOOL POLICY.*
- *Quizzes and tests must be made up before or after class. Fill out a make-up work appointment sheet and give it to me. Make sure to show up. No-shows will receive a zero for the assignment.*

- Late work--UPTO one day late = 30 point penalty.
 - Two days late = 50 point penalty
 - Three days = zero for the assignment
- No late work accepted after posted grade cut-off for the grading period.

Turning in Make-up and Late work:

- Make sure to label each assignment as "make-up" or "late." Be sure to include the date the assignment was due.
 - Hand the assignment *directly to me.*

Tutorials, making up work, and being in the room outside of class hours: Make sure to fill out an appointment form. Even though I am in my classroom very early and very late sometimes, making an appointment is the only way to ensure that I will be in the room when you need me to be. If you are here for help, have specific questions ready. "I don't get it" is not quite good enough. Always bring your binder with you, so that I can look at your notes and assignments together.

*I am glad that you are here. If we work together, we can have a fantastic year of discovery, exploration, and positive risk-taking. I am here to help **you** succeed. Let's share each other's success! Bonne chance!*

Theatre II Important Dates Acknowledgement

In order for a production class to work, every member of the cast and crew ensemble must count on each other. This type of activity requires commitment and planning in order to work. Each member matters and needs to be a part of all aspects of production. That is why commitment to a rehearsal and performance schedule matters.

Required Production and Competition Dates (Times are approximate and may change slightly) MARK THESE DATES IN YOUR CALENDARS NOW:

Parents, please check the above required dates for the Theatre Arts II 2015 productions and competitions. If there are conflicts with any of the above dates, necessary explanations must be made in writing and confirmed with your signature. An alternate assignment will be given for each missed commitment. **Barring documented emergencies, failure to give advance notice on this form of any conflicts will result in a zero for that rehearsal or performance. Each rehearsal and performance will count as at least a test grade.**

Student acknowledgement:

I, (student name) _____, have looked over the rehearsal and performance dates above and acknowledge that a significant percentage of my grade rests on my participation in those activities. I have set aside these dates and will participate fully in this production class. I realize that failure to give advance notice on this form of any conflicts with these dates could result in a lowering of my grade for the class.

Student signature _____

Parental acknowledgement:

I, (parent/guardian name) _____, have looked over the rehearsal and performance dates above and acknowledge that a significant percentage of my child's grade rests on his/her participation in those activities. He/she has set aside these dates and will participate fully in this production class. I realize that failure to give advance notice on this form of any conflicts with these dates could result in a lowering of my child's grade for the class.

Parental signature _____

Conflicts:

Please list and explain conflicts with any of the dates above. Please be specific. Pre-existing conflicts listed here for pre-approval will be worked around and the student will receive alternate assignments.