



South Texas Preparatory Academy

"Building a Legion of Learners"

Course	Teacher	Conference Times	Telephone	Room	E-mail
Theater Arts 7&8	Mrs. AuenSmith	A Day 9:55 – 11:55 B-Day 2:35 – 4:00	(956)388-2600 (office) (956)318-8583 (room)	301 Hughes	kristi.auensmith@stisd.net

COURSE OVERVIEW

Purpose: Theater provides us a unique opportunity to explore life. We are able to safely increase our perception, indulge in creative expression, engage in historical and cultural heritage and grow through critical evaluation. The purpose of this course is to communicate in a dramatic form, make artistic choices, solve problems, build positive self-concepts, relate interpersonally and grow as a team.

Objective: Theater creates a more empathic, thoughtful and understanding person. It increases your understanding of self and others and helps to develop clear ideas about the world. Theater develops skills needed for success in all fields of employment and life.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Semester one will begin with the Introduction to Theater. We will study both the self and teamwork and learn the importance of working together, leading and following with our discovered strengths. We will develop the procedure to follow when analyzing a character for performance. You will be tested traditionally through quizzes on terminology and will present an ethical debate used to understand motivation and character.

Most of the skills you learn in the next unit of study, *Improvisation*, will be applied to what we do the remainder of the year. You will learn how to work within an environment, how to warm up, how to create a character through observation and analysis, how to manipulate speech patterns, and how to imitate. You will also learn how to build a story. Your mastery of this unit will be evaluated using performance quizzes and a traditional test as well as several self and peer formative evaluations.

Unit Four will help us to understand the stage. Not only will we learn floor positions but we will also study stage levels and exercises to improve voice and diction. Evaluation of mastery will be a traditional test as well as staged oral interpretation.

Having mastered the structure and technique, at the beginning of semester two you will select a one-act play for performance. I will provide you with at least 2 choices that closely accommodate our needs. We will then read each in class and evaluate them from the standpoint of a director. Looking closely at our stage size, acting levels, set requirement, audience, we will come to a consensus, cast the play and begin rehearsals. Stage direction and set design, self-direction and task orientation and focus will be evaluated throughout the semester (formative peer grades included) and will account for various participation and homework grades. The performance of this show in front of a live audience will be your final semester exam grade. This year's performance is set tentatively for May 22nd from 6 to 8 in the STPA Cafetorium.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK

Homework: Work done outside of class consists mostly of script reading and writing, and preparation for performance including: improvisation, and monologue, dialogue, or mixed group scenes. A textbook will not be issued for normal use outside of class. Instead, handouts and worksheets will be used.

Quizzes: Quizzes are given to monitor separate concepts discussed and practiced within the unit of study. Quizzes are usually objective and announced.

Participation: Much of the comprehension of and display of skills is determined through in class rehearsal. Each member is expected to demonstrate understanding of the objective prior to rehearsal out of class. Individual student participation, contribution, dedication and effort in class are graded. This is the base line for evaluating out of class rehearsal.

Exams: Due to the nature of the objectives, students will demonstrate an understanding more through performance than through written exams. First Semester performances will include prepared and performed improvisation, and staged monologue, dialogue, or mixed group scenes. However, both written and performance exams are given. 1st Semester, students will complete a comprehensive final exam that is both subjective (essay and short answer) and objective (matching, multiple choice, and true false).

2nd semester will be preparation for the play. The public performance will be the Spring Semester Final exam. This Performance is tentatively set for *Wednesday, May 17th*. So that you can enjoy the culmination of their labors, the performance will be held in the STPA Cafetorium starting at 6:30pm. Please be advised that the performance, as this is a performance-based class, is *mandatory*.

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

After every class performance, students will be asked to formatively evaluate themselves and their peers. This class is a work in progress and grades do depend on getting better. Getting better requires thoughtful reflection and sincere, critical and constructive feedback. After every performance, I will ask each student to consider where they are now in terms on the expectations for that performance. They will need to consider where they should be and ask what they need to do to get there. As a team, we must recognize our strengths and weaknesses, we all begin somewhere and given our shared goal, we are all expected to grow by the end of the year. Formative assessments are critical to learning because they provide feedback as to what essential learning we will focus on next. They will help influence and shape the process of learning while we still have time to improve before tests, quizzes or report cards are given and before we perform publically.

GRADING PROCEDURES & WEIGHTS

KNOWLEDGE OF CONTENT

LIFE SKILLS

Practice Work	consistent, polished	15%	Improvement	dedicated	10%
Critiques	critically thoughtful	10%	Time Management	organized	5%
Participation	sees shared goal	15%	Team Work	caring /fair	10%
Performance		35%			
Final Exam		25%			

All work is due at the designated assigned time. Students absent on a day work is due shall receive a due date for the next day the student returns to class unless work was assigned prior to absence.

Students are responsible for securing makeup work and making arrangements to discuss assignment content and expectations. Homework is used as an indicator of understanding and to ensure mastery of content. Make certain ample rehearsal is being done out of class so that progress can be observed. Although nothing replaces being in class, all handouts, study guides and power points are available on Blackboard.

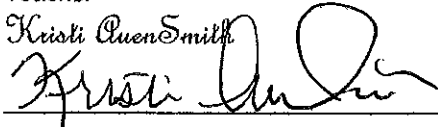
Retesting procedures: Students may retake tests only upon receiving a failing grade. Additional material may be a prerequisite to taking a test. The time and date for all retests is determined by the teacher. I take the original grade and average it with the new retest grade to determine the final grade, with a 70% being the maximum grade.

Semester finals may not be retested.

EXPECTATIONS AND CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

Within the first week, the class will work collaboratively to create our unique class constitution. Each will be given a copy and will bring this home for you to see, sign and return. This is a living document that may need to change as our needs change. The document is a list of the expectations we have as a team – of ourselves and others. In addition to this constitution, we have daily procedures. It is important all students are aware of and follow the procedures established in the room and on stage.

Teacher

Kristi Owen Smith


Principal

Ana Castro


I have received a copy of this course outline, have been given the opportunity to ask questions, and understand the contents:

 Student Signature

 Date

 Parent Signature

 Date