



Reynolds High School
Exploring Acting
*Building Relationships for Academic
Success*



THEATER
DRAMA & COMEDY

Instructor Name: Consuelo (Connie) Dickinson

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Required Textbooks/Materials:

All texts including plays, articles, monologues/scenes, and textbooks will be provided in class. Students are encouraged to bring their own supplies and other writing/art materials, but materials will be provided.

Course Description:

This integrated arts class is designed to give the beginning theatre student a deeper understanding and appreciation of this art form.

Our study will focus on the exploration of the craft of acting and performing in general. The class will explore both performing artists and written works. Students will engage with a number of different styles as well as study the significance/change of theatre over time. As a class ensemble, students will explore their voice and body as acting tools, and as both directors and actors create dynamic energy that will bring their performances to life. We will be sharpening creative skills through storytelling, improvisation, monologues, duo/group scenes, character development, pantomime, creative movement, scene study, directing, and original scripted presentations just to name a few activities.

Students will read a variety of plays from specific historical time periods (Shakespeare, Greek Theatre, Comedia Del Arte, Modern Day, etc) and also focus on studying one of the following founders of modern theatre: Uta Hagen, Konstantine Stanislavski, Stella Adler, or Viola Spolin.

Course Requirements –

Students are expected to participate in performing, directing, and critique opportunities. They will need to engage in class warmups- physical, verbal,

and written. Students will also need to participate in improv game/extension activities and will complete both project and performance-based assessments.

Each class will be structured as an opportunity to do a variety of the following: write and respond (verbally and in writing), connect with each other and actively working to create a safe and welcoming space, dialoguing with each other about current theatre and performances, work independently on projects and performance pieces, collaborate with classmates to hone skills/build on each other's strengths, reflect on/ evaluate their own performance, set and reflect on goals, respond to each other's performances, and reflect on work accomplished. Focus skills for this class are:

Focus- Learning to concentrate on a task.

Observation- As an audience or performer, being attentive to detail, sensitive to multiple points of view and using observations to think analytically/critically.

Creative Problem Solving- Being able to experiment and develop new solutions in a process that starts with a concept and ends with a product (performance).

Organization- Creating and meeting scheduled commitments and deadlines.

Presentation- Learning to present oneself clearly and with a purpose.

Communication- Learning to articulate your ideas and listen to the ideas of others.

Collaboration- Learning to work together using negotiation, compromise and respect to achieve a mutual goal.

Self-Discipline- Taking responsibility for oneself by setting goals, participating, being punctual, showing initiative and following through.

Performance Attendance – all Acting students must see one performance for each Main Stage production. Each production has approximately 6 show nights, which means that if you saw one show for each production, you would need to see 3 performances – 1 Fall Main Stage, 1 Winter Black Box & 1 Spring Musical.

- a. If you are unable to attend a production due to circumstances beyond your control, an alternative assignment must be completed to earn credit for this grade. The alternative

assignment consists of watching an online version of the running production and writing a 1-page review of 3 major acting elements.

- b. **ADMISSION IS FREE FOR ALL ACTING & STAGECRAFT STUDENTS!**
- c. Add show dates to your calendar. Tickets are available 1 month prior to opening – make your reservation as soon as possible.

Grading Policy Description –

Homework

Students are expected to complete homework when it is assigned. This may include: finishing something started in class, watching something and responding to it-(linked in Schoology), working on memorizing lines, completing part of their goals, continuing to work on performance pieces or projects, studying for tests and quizzes. While homework may not be assigned daily, it is essential that it be completed when assigned so that students will be ready on performance and project due dates. Students who do not come to class prepared may end up spending more time on their own completing the work. Due to the nature of memorization and the individual abilities of students, the time spent rehearsing for a performance will vary.

Grading

Please take advantage of the Parent Vue option to track your student's progress. Please feel free to email me a message or call if you have any questions/concerns. Please indicate which student you are inquiring about- first and last name-, the class they are in and your concerns.

60 % Summative- This includes Mastery tests/quizzes, performances, projects, critiques, & evaluations.

20 % Formative- This includes participation, bell work, notes, exit tickets, homework, and other classwork.

20%- Performance/Production- As part of the class, students will have the opportunity to attend and perform at various competitions in the Mt. Hood Conference and as part of Thespians. All theatre students are expected to work at least 10 production hours on every show. Production hours can occur after school, during Saturday work parties, and during the performances.

Letter Grade Description

Grade Percentage	Scale Grading	Letter Grade	Description
90-100	5	A	The student fully understands the content and the course objectives have been mastered.
80-89	4	B	The student understands the content and course objectives at an above average level.
70-79	3	C	The student understands the course content and course objectives at an average level.
60-69	2	D	The student understands the course content at a below average level and a minimum of course objectives are met.
50-59	1	F	The student has not met a sufficient number of course objectives to pass a minimum level and receives no credit.

Cell Phone Policy – *Off and Away*

All students are required to keep all personal electronic devices—including cell phones, smartwatches, and wired/wireless earbuds or headphones—powered off and stored away for the entire school day. This includes during class time, passing periods, and lunch/breaks.

Late Work/Retake Policy –

If student will be late turning in assignment, then he/she/they will:

Contact Mrs. Dickinson in person or via email ASAP (as soon as possible) with explanation, plan of completion and questions.

Turn in late work no later than one week after due date. Schoology submissions will be closed after one week. When in doubt, talk with or email the teacher. I will work with you, but you have to contact me.

There will be a hard deadline a week before the end of each quarter and semester. No late work will be accepted after this point unless the student and I have discussed an alternative plan.

Retakes – Any class assignment, performance, quiz/test can be revised and resubmitted, but you must talk with me about this beforehand. Most projects can be revised and resubmitted as well.

A student can make up a low grade on an assessment by:

- Connecting with me during office hours outside of class!
- Get an extension /makeup assignment
- Bring the old assessment and have corrected his/her mistakes
- Work on the extension /makeup assignment
- Turn in the extension /makeup assignment
- Retake the assessment

Absences

If a student is absent, then he she needs to:

- **Connect with me during office hours-** It is the student's responsibility to ask for any make up any assignments missed. Connecting with me during office hours gives me the time I need to explain what the student missed.
- **Ask for assignments missed-** assignments can be made up during my office hours, preferably with prior arrangements on the student's part. If students are absent, they have **one week** to complete the homework they missed.
- **Turn in Assignments-** Homework due on the day of a student's absence will need to be turned in the **next day**. If the homework is turned in the next day, and if the absence is excused, the homework will not be counted as late. Unusual circumstances will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Course Schedule/Outline of Units

Dates	Topic
September	Guiding Questions: Intro to Theatre: What is theatre? Why is theatre important? Who am I as an actor?
October	Intro to Improvisation What is improv? How can improv help us become better actors? How do we move onstage?
November	Elements of a performance: Artists' close up & monologues How do we memorize? How do we create a character?

	<p>How do we block our actions/move onstage?</p> <p>How do we perform how do we evaluate our performances?</p>
December	<p>Scene Work:</p> <p>How do we take what we have learned and apply it with another person/people?</p> <p>How do we establish a relationship?</p> <p>How do we interact with others onstage and off?</p>
January	<p>Historical Theatre plays- the Greek Tragedies</p> <p>Origin of theatre</p> <p>Historical context</p> <p>Modern adaptations</p> <p>Modern Play study</p> <p>What can traditional theatre teach us?</p> <p>Why is it important?</p>
February	<p>One Act preparation and Performances</p> <p>Putting theory into action</p>

Class Expectations (classroom rules, procedures, POWER, etc.)

Letter	Stands for	What does this look like in our classroom?
P	Prepared & Punctual	<p>Bring all materials and supplies to class.</p> <p>Be punctual and use class time effectively.</p>
O	Organized	<p>Organize materials and keep track of important dates and deadlines</p> <p>Complete class work- both formative and summative-</p> <p>Set goals and evaluate goals</p> <p>Complete assigned homework (daily and weekly)</p>
W	Writers	<p>Write as a way of organizing information, responding to assignments and activities, and reflecting on both your performances and those of your classmates.</p>

E	Engaged	<p>Participate fully to the best of your ability in all class activities</p> <p>Work on performance pieces and portfolio projects</p> <p>Speak and respond in all group configurations.</p> <p>Be willing to try new things</p> <p>Experience and work through discomfort</p>
R	Respectful	<p>No food or drink other than water bottles in the class</p> <p>Being quiet when teacher or other person is presenting/ sharing.</p> <p>Showing up every day ready to do something.</p> <p>Following the classroom policies and procedures of respecting yourself, your environment, and others in the class.</p>

Exploring Acting

I have read and understood the class syllabus.

Student Signature_____

Date_____

Parent Signature_____

Date_____