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# Drama Syllabus 2020-2021

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## Course Description

Students will explore the craft of theatre and learn elements of performance, design, theatre history, and critique. Students will learn the vocabulary and language of theatre as we explore **Artistic Perception**. They will create characters and stories as we explore improvisation and script writing as part of our unit on **Creative Expression**. Students will examine the cultural and historical relevance of plays as we explore **Historical and Cultural Content**, where we will examine the role theatre plays in our society. And finally students will consider the **Aesthetic Value** of the arts by critically examining the elements of design and performance in a live production. All the while, students will be developing problem solving, critical thinking, and communication skills that will benefit them academically whether they choose to pursue a career in the arts or apply these skills to other areas of interest.

## Course Content:

### Artistic Perception

- In this unit, students will define theatrical terms and begin to explore the fundamentals of acting. **Key elements include:** stage directions, hierarchy of the theatre, exploring character from the inside out (objective, obstacle, tactic) and the outside in (movement, space, tempo).

### Creative Expression

- Students will be asked to perform works that they create using the tools mastered in our unit on Artistic Perception. **Key elements include:** improvisation, ensemble work, active listening, creative writing, and direction.

### Historical and Cultural Content

- Students will review the history of theatre, connecting important dramatic breakthroughs with relevant historic and cultural changes. **Key elements include:** genre, set design, costume design, and dramaturgy.
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## Aesthetic Value

- Students will evaluate dramatic works for their elements of design and performance. They will share their opinions by providing evidence and reasoning via class discussions and written dramatic critique. **Key elements include:** evidence, reasoning, critical thinking, persuasive writing, and public speaking.

## Course Materials

- Students will need to bring the following items to every class (virtual or in-person):
  - Water, class notebook, binder, printed scripts or other course materials provided by teacher, and a **pencil**
- Additionally, students must wear clothing that allows them to move freely (please wear/bring leggings to wear under skirts/dresses, close toed shoes, and belt pants to ensure they remain in place at all times).

## Course Expectations

1. **Presence:** Students are expected to attend every class, barring illness or family emergency. Much of our work is class time is devoted to rehearsing or collaborating with classmates. Any absence has a great impact on your fellow students who are depending on your contributions as a performer OR an audience member.
2. **Prepared:** Students are expected to complete all assignments by the due date. Should a student require an extension for any assignment, they need to speak with their instructor and arrange an alternate date. For performance assignments, students are expected to have their lines memorized, have any costume or prop elements they need, and be ready to perform on the day scheduled by the instructor.
3. **Participate:** Students are expected to step outside of their comfort zone in this class. They will be asked to take risks, try new things, be vulnerable, and be willing to FAIL constantly. To pass this class, students will be required to engage in class activities as well as contribute to group assignments and discussions.
4. **Polite:** Students are expected to treat their fellow classmates, the instructor, the space, and the material with respect. Whether they are creating new characters or critiquing the performances of others, all students are expected to make positive choices that contribute to a safe classroom environment.

## Grading Policy

Every assignment will be given a point value and rubrics will be provided. Grades are assigned on a sliding scale:

A	< 94%	to 93%		C	< 77%	to 74%
A-	< 93%	to 90%		C-	< 74%	to 70%
B+	< 90%	to 87%		D+	< 70%	to 67%
B	< 87%	to 84%		D	< 67%	to 64%
B-	< 84%	to 80%		D-	< 64%	to 61%
C+	< 80%	to 77%		F	< 61%	to 0%

Your grade in Drama will be determined by your performance in the following areas:

Performance	<b>40%</b>	Performances
Effective Effort and Participation	<b>30%</b>	Homework Assignments, Rehearsals, Class Discussions, Group Discussions, Audience Behavior, In-Class Activities
Writing	<b>30%</b>	Monologue, Group Scripts, Class Notes, Theatre Reviews

## After-School Theatre Program

The extra-curricular theatre productions are separate from the Drama class and participation is not required as part of this class. To learn more about our theatre productions, please visit [www.smhsdrama.org](http://www.smhsdrama.org) or look for audition announcements in the school bulletin! Students must maintain a GPA of 2.0 to participate in our productions.