

Newbury Park High School
Career Technical Education: Stagecraft ROP
Arts, Media, and Entertainment Industry Sector
Instructor: Mrs. Marilyn Strange

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Google Classroom Code:

Turnitin.com Code:

Welcome to Stagecraft! It is my greatest hope that the coming year will be filled with many happy memories, and of course, a great deal of learning! Stagecraft will give you the incredible opportunity to develop your imagination and creativity individually, while working as a community in a collaborative environment, with a common goal. We are all here to grow, learn, and encourage each other, together. **Remember, without the technical crew, there would be no production, so thank you for your dedication and hard work.** Please take a few moments to review the policies of my classroom with a parent or guardian, sign, and return the attached page by **Friday, August 23rd**. Students will also be expected to sign the co-curricular code and contract, to also be returned by **Friday, August 23rd**.

REQUIRED PREREQUISITE COURSE: Technical Theatre

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class is designed to be the second course in the Arts, Media, and Entertainment pathway, created to advance Technical Theatre education at Newbury Park High School. It will enhance the basic skills students have acquired in the Technical Theatre prerequisite course in theatrical lighting, audio production, set construction, stage management, properties management, theatrical stage rigging, projections, and costume design, and give students a more detailed and well rounded education in these areas. Students will be placed on various technical crews, working with other students collaboratively, to accomplish specific creative goals geared toward theatrical productions, and creating a community where ideas can be shared positively, in a real world theatrical environment. Students will be acquiring and gaining knowledge and competencies through a combination of theatrical production work, internships with professional and community theatre companies, and in class production projects. Stagecraft students are expected to design and create elements for theatrical productions, in addition to providing technical support and design, as necessary, for other events on campus, such as Dance Concerts, Choir events, Band Festivals, Talent Shows, etc. There will be times when students are expected to work outside of class hours, after school, in the evenings and on weekends, at the theatre. Students will also be expected to serve in a leadership capacity and mentor students in the Technical Theatre class. The expectation is this course will allow them to proceed to the capstone level class of Honors Stage Production ROP and pursue professional work in the

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entertainment industry, enabling students to enter the workforce as an entry-level technician or stagehand.

This course aligns with the California Career Technical Education Standards, California State Standards for Visual and Performing Arts, and several California Common Core State Standards in English, Algebra, and Geometry.

In addition, this course has the capability to offer dual credit at both Newbury Park High School and Ventura County Community College District to the Stagecraft student, allowing the student to accrue college credit while still in high school. This is accomplished by NPHS and VCCCD instructors collaborating on their curriculum to make their courses align. Credit from VCCCD is transferable to the California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC), therefore it is not necessary for students to attend Moorpark/ Oxnard/ Ventura College to benefit from this dual credit articulation. Students will need to register with the Ventura County Community College District, in order to initiate the dual credit process. Information will be given, when applicable.

GRADING:

All grading will be done on a point system. The overall grade will be the percentage of points accrued divided by points possible. Students who earn the following percent of the total points will earn the listed letter grade:

90-100% = A
80-89% = B
70-79% = C
60-69% = D
59% and below = F

Please note, due to the nature of this class, grading is highly subjective, so your best work is required. Grades are regularly updated on Q and I am always willing to discuss an individual grade. I will not discuss or compare a student's grade to another student in the class.

Late work policy for written assignments: 10% will be deducted for each day it is late. If an assignment is turned in after 5 days, only the maximum of 50% credit will be rewarded.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to be in their seats, ready to work, when the bell rings. Anything short of this will be considered tardy and must be excused by a note from another teacher or a parent through the proper Attendance Office protocols. The school attendance policy will be enforced in this class. Students are also expected to stay and be productive for the whole period. If a

student cannot be located during the class period, they will be marked truant. Throughout the course of the school year, students will also be assigned to work specific school events that require technical assistance, which they will be responsible for attending, including any and all production and technical rehearsals connected to these events. Students are required to be on time for their production call times and at internship opportunities off campus and be ready to work at arrival. Failure to do so will result in loss of participation points and a potential drop from professional internship opportunities. Professionally speaking “to be on time, is to be late.”

SAFETY

Our safety is the most important consideration in Stagecraft class. If improperly completed, many activities could result in serious injury or death. All safety rules and policies must be obeyed at all times. Wearing the appropriate clothing, following specified protocols, and using good judgement are all factors in maintaining a safe work environment. **If for any reason the safety of yourself or others are jeopardized, due to dangerous actions or misbehavior on your part, you will be immediately removed from class and drop/failed.**

- Students must wear closed toed shoes while working in the shop. If students are wearing sandals, they will not be allowed to work and will lose participation points for that day.
- Eye protection must be worn when operating power tools at all times.
- Do not work in the shop alone or unsupervised.
- Students are only allowed in the catwalk and cove areas when specified to do so.
- Rigging will be handled appropriately and only after being tested on it.
- Wear clothes you are free to work in and do not mind getting dirty. This class sometimes requires heavy lifting, painting, and construction work.

A NOTE ABOUT PROFESSIONAL DRESS FOR EVENTS: Your work in productions, both on and off campus, are a reflection of our school program. In order to move freely to complete technical theatre tasks during productions without being seen by audience members, you must wear ALL BLACK or dark clothes, with no logos, including shoes. This is considered professional attire. If a student is not able to provide black attire for themselves, they have the capability to borrow proper attire from the Theatre Department, which must be returned in the same condition it was provided or must be replaced. Anything less than will be considered out of dress, the student sent to change, resulting in loss of participation points and/or potential internship opportunities.

SUPPLIES (these need to be brought to class everyday unless otherwise instructed):

- ✓ Spiral bound notebook or composition book for journal/notes
- ✓ 2 Pens (blue or black only)
- ✓ 2 Pencils with erasers
- ✓ Scripts or scenes we are working on
- ✓ Agenda Book (optional)

PARTICIPATION AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Daily Participation in Class – Participation and attendance are key components to the success of this course. Stagecraft students are expected to be mentors to students in the Technical Theatre class, in addition to fulfilling production schedules for various on campus events. If students are not showing up to class, these things cannot be accomplished and events will suffer. Students earn participation points each day they attend class and participate fully in class activities. **This class is based on attendance/punctuality and participation.** If a student is absent, they will not receive participation points for that day. If a student has an excused absence, they will be able to make up their points doing an alternative assignment.

Alternative assignments and directions may be found on the Google Classroom site, titled “Alternative Assignments – Technical Theatre” and turned in on turnitin.com, when completed. Each assignment must have the date of absence on it. You will be given one day for each absence to turn in an alternative assignment. A student having six (6) unexcused tardies or trancies in any one class, per sub term, may be dropped from the course and assigned a grade of “F” (See the Newbury Park High School Agenda and posting in class).

Participation points will be awarded for daily participation, the quality of work on events, exams, homework, and other assignments. Where most classes have one hour of homework per night, the after school requirements for this class are heaviest during productions and other PAC events. **All scripts and scenes must be read, in its entirety, before design plots, ground plans, etc. are completed and finalized.**

Meeting Deadlines and Checklists - Students will be provided a checklist of topics that need to be covered in their department, with an appropriate deadline. The list must be completed each week and students will be graded on their work and progress.

Participation in School Productions Earning Service Points - Each semester, students will be required to work a minimum of 7 points worth of PAC activities. As this is a Technical **Theatre** based class, at least two points must be a theatre event. One point must also be from working a regular, counseling-type event. If the event worked is a non-theatre event, event organizers will be asked to fill out a survey, identifying the performance of the student at the event. This will be factored into the students’ grade. Points are allocated by the amount of time each event takes:

One Point Productions: PFA Talks, Counseling Events, ASG Events, DWTSP, IB Dance, 18 Hour Theatre Festival, Zombie Run

Two Point Productions: Band & Jazz Concerts, String Concerts, Talent Show, TED X Event, Mystery Dinner Theatre

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Three Point Productions: Dance Concerts, Choir Concerts

Four Point Productions: Theatre Productions and other Theatre Fundraisers.

Classwork and Class Projects – Assignments will be given in class in order to apply principles and incorporate concepts.

Written Skills Tests and Quizzes – Covering technical theatre vocabulary, concepts, safety and class material.

Homework – Homework will be given to reinforce the concepts learned in class or research information for productions.

PORTFOLIO:

The goal of the Stagecraft class is to have students learning multiple skills in various technical theatre capacities, creating a well rounded work environment and skill set for the Stagecraft student. Focusing on set design, creation of flats, painting techniques, the rigging system, lighting, and assuming a leadership role during a production, students will be asked to create a portfolio of work, documenting their creative endeavors throughout the course of the year in these fields. This portfolio will be turned in at the end of the year and used to assess work for credit at the college level.

OTHER CLASS RULES:

Professionalism is expected at all times. That means being on time, respecting others, being on task, and acting appropriately backstage.

Always be prepared. Please bring appropriate supplies to class and be ready to work when the bell rings, but leave your electronic devices turned off and put away at the start of class. If I hear or see a student talking, texting, or playing on a cell phone, it will be relieved of them, unless otherwise authorized by me. Refer to the student handbook for rules and regulation on cell phone usage.

Never eat in the Facility. There is absolutely no gum, food, candy, and drinks allowed. There will be a designated area outside house right where snacks can be finished and thrown away in the trash can. Water bottles are permitted in the house and backstage area.

Time does not dismiss you. I will be the only person to dismiss you from class. There might be times when we have a guest speaker or we are finishing a project and class might run over a few minutes. We are a team and finish together before leaving for the day.

Have fun, experiment, and don't be afraid to try a new experience or step outside of your comfort zone. Listen to your artistic heart and follow that vision.

Everyone is to be safe. Be aware of your surroundings and pay attention in class when moving or doing an activity. If working with others, make sure they are following proper safety precautions and rules, to maintain a safe working environment. I must know where you are at, at all times. If I can't account for your whereabouts, I will be forced to mark you absent or assume you left class early, in which case, you are considered truant.

Respect each other. At times, you will be a leader and in other instances, a follower. Stick to constructive criticism when critiquing individual's work and give each other the respect you all deserve. Our space needs to feel safe. Refrain from using language that hurts or offends others. Respect all individuals entering the classroom, whether that is a substitute, a guest speaker, or myself. Respect the space, both the classroom and the PAC. The PAC specifically is a shared facility that we need to take care of. It is a privilege to have and you are expected to take care of it.

OVERVIEW OF COURSE

Unit 1: Introduction - Theatre Safety, Etiquette, Department Introduction and Professionalism

Students in the Stagecraft class have already taken the prerequisite Technical Theatre class, teaching them the basics about theatre safety, etiquette, and professionalism. In this first unit, students will have lectures and be tested on safety procedures, emergency procedures, and theatre etiquette, to make sure they remember the proper procedures and are updated on current protocols, if information has changed. Students will also study safety, etiquette, and professionalism, in terms of professional technical union standards, in order to apply them later in the term. Students will be tested in both a hands-on performance assessment, in addition to a multiple choice exam. Stagecraft students will also aid Stage Production students in giving presentations to Technical Theatre students, sharing basic knowledge of the department they are assigned to, in order to introduce Technical Theatre students to the demands of their chosen craft.

Unit 2: Production Crew Assignments and Fall Production

After crews have been assigned to the various departments for the Fall Musical Production, Stagecraft students will be in charge of aiding and supervising Technical Theatre students in their chosen craft, from script analysis to post-production, overseen by the instructor with regular check-ins and production meetings. It is the responsibility of the Stagecraft student to work on assigned production work needed for the production, adhering to production schedules, while creating work that can be functional and polished for the production. Stagecraft students are also responsible for working with the director of the show and other crew supervisors, to design the elements of the production in a hands-on, professional manner, so each technical piece fits

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together in a cohesive unit. After the production is over, students will be asked to complete a written essay, self critiquing their creative work on the fall production.

Unit 3: Production Design Portfolio and Internship Opportunities

Students will be introduced to the concept of creating and maintaining a portfolio of their creative work, in order to acquire them professional work and internships. Guest speakers working professionally in the industry will be asked to speak in class, so that students can begin making professional connections and understanding the qualifications needed to work professionally in the industry, in addition to taking a tour of a professional theatre. At this time, students will be coached on interview techniques and completing a mock interview, so they are able to start seeking out internship opportunities with professional and community theatre companies for the second half of the year.

Units 4 and 5: Production Crew Assignments for Spring Production and Student Directed One Acts

The description of Unit 2 will be repeated for these units, as students prepare for the Spring Production and Student Directed One Acts. In the Student Directed One Acts, Technical Theatre and Stagecraft students are in charge of designing the production, with the student supervisor and instructor overseeing the production elements and making sure the production schedule is being maintained.

Unit 6: Final Unit

Students will be asked to complete a final design project, where they take a play they would like to work on professionally, and use the confines of the school Performing Arts Center to design a version of that play. They will present their designs to the Technical Theatre class and the class will debate the merits of the production choices made through a Socratic seminar. This final design project, in addition to the student's portfolio, will also be submitted to Ventura Community College, to determine if college level credit has been achieved.

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Agreement to follow rules and procedures:

I (student), _____, have read the Classroom Management Plan and understand the expectations and rules for Mrs. Strange's class and will respect the facility.

I, _____, parent / guardian of _____, have read the Classroom Management Plan and understand the expectations and rules for Mrs. Strange's class.

I, _____, parent / guardian of _____, would like /would not like (please circle one) to be invited to the Google Classroom.

Student signature

Parent / guardian signature

*Parents and students, please make a regular habit out of checking your grades on

Q:

Q is available at <https://q.conejousd.org>.

Parent email: _____

Student email: _____

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