

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

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Google Classroom Code:

Turnitin.com Code:

Welcome to Technical Theatre! It is my greatest hope that the coming year will be filled with many happy memories, and of course, a great deal of learning! Technical Theatre class 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**.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Technical Theatre CP course is the introductory/beginning course of the Career Technical Education Pathway in Arts, Media, and Entertainment at Newbury Park High School. This course will introduce the student to what goes on behind the scenes of the theatre, in all technical aspects: lights, sound, set construction, costuming, properties, projections, rigging, and stage management. Students are responsible for creating the technical aspects of school theatre productions, in addition to providing technical support, as necessary, for other events on campus in the Performing Arts Center, such as Dance Concerts, Choir events, Band Festivals, Talent Shows, Counseling events, etc. throughout the school year. 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. 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. The student will leave this course with a general understanding of the subject, demonstrating the ability to use technical vocabulary in their chosen expertise(es), learn proper safety, protocol, and etiquette, and give students the confidence to work for community or professional organizations in theatre.

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.

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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 a student's best work is required. I am always willing to discuss an individual grade, but will not discuss or compare a 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 expected to stay and be productive for the whole period. If a student cannot be located during class time, they will be marked truant. Throughout the course of the school year, students will also be assigned to work at 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, which take place after school. Students are required to be on time for their production call times and be ready to work at arrival. Failure to do so will result in loss of participation points. Professionally speaking “to be on time, is to be late.”

SAFETY

Our safety is the most important consideration in Technical Theatre 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.**

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- 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: Student backstage 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, students are required to 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 being dressed appropriately will be considered out of dress, the student will be sent to change, and will result in loss of participation points.

MANDATORY ASSIGNMENTS:

Daily Participation – 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. Please note, participation points make up roughly 50% of your overall grade. The other 50% comes from the events you work, exams, homework, and more. 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 website, 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 truancies 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).

Points will be awarded for daily participation, working 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.**

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Service Points - Each semester, students will be required to work a minimum of 5 points worth of PAC activities, which take place after school. As this is a Technical **Theatre** based class, at least one point must be a theatre event. Additionally, Term 2, one point must also be accrued from working a 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, Theatre Fundraisers
- Two Point Productions: Band & Jazz Concerts, String Concerts, Talent Show, Ted X event, Mystery Dinner Theatre
- Three Point Productions: Dance Concerts, Choir Concerts
- Four Point Productions: Mainstage Theatre Productions

Stagehand Requirement - As a Technical Theatre student is learning about the art and requirements of being a backstage technician in the professional world, each student will be required to work as a stagehand for at least one show this school year, in the backstage area. They will be expected to wear the proper attire, attend ALL required rehearsals, and work, in their specific capacity, for ALL shows.

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.

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)

CLASS RULES:

Punctuality is very important. I expect you to be in your seats, promptly at 2:15 pm, when I take attendance. Time is precious and being early is on time. Professionalism is expected at all times.

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Always be prepared. Please bring appropriate supplies to class and be ready to work, but leave your electronic devices turned off and put away. If I see a student using a cell phone, you will be relieved of it. 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 something new. This is your class to play.

Everyone is to be safe. Be aware of your surroundings and pay attention in class when moving or doing an activity. There are a lot of obstacles in the theatre, which can be safety hazards. There will be no walking on the catwalk or rigging loft, lifting or moving heavy objects, building, or rigging without my consent. This is for your safety. I must also 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. This can be a difficult class for some individuals and some of you might be shy. 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 will be asked to explore, on an introductory level, the various aspects of technical theatre associated with theatre production: lighting, sound, set, properties, costumes/makeup, and stage management. In this introduction, students will learn about what each technical aspect is, the responsibilities of each when putting together a theatrical production, the basic instruments used, and in what areas of the theatre they occupy. Students will be introduced to the geography of the theatre and will be expected to use and identify the vocabulary terms associated with the various stage areas, types of theatre spaces, and technical terms associated with Theatre Arts. Basic safety rules, procedures, and etiquette will be lectured and tested on during this unit, both in written exam and through a performance assessment, covering the rigging system, safety procedures, proper work attire, Cal/OSHA standards, and union regulations. Lastly, students will be taught proper rules of professionalism and expectations when working in a professional theatre environment, that must be applied to our working

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conditions, both in class and when working events for the school, such as guest lecturers, musical concerts, and parent workshops.

Unit 2 - Production Crew Assignments and Fall Production

Technical Theatre is a complete interactive classroom experience. This first unit is designed to give students the capability to explore their technical theatre interests, as identified in the previous unit. Initially, students will learn how to analyze a script from various historical and cultural contexts and periods that is being produced at the school, based upon their chosen emphasis of study for the fall production. From their exploration of script analysis, students will foster their strengths in design and implementation for the fall theatrical production, learning the technical requirements and responsibilities of their chosen crew in more detail: studying plots, creating proper ground plans to scale, showing design through color renderings, and learning how to actualize their design into a working piece of the production that they build, hang, pull, or make, as interpreted from their designs. For example, if a student is part of the lighting crew, they will learn how to interpret and design a lighting plot, explore the various lighting instruments and their capabilities through hanging and focusing the lights through hands on experience, and programming and operating the lighting board, designing light cues for the production. Students will take leadership positions within each unit as their strengths show, allowing students to teach other students. Students will rotate their responsibilities within the unit to be exposed to all aspects of the technical theatre subject being studied at that time. This gives students a very well-rounded opportunity to be immersed in each design aspect. Instruction will be given by lecture, demonstration, and modeling. Various videos will be used in a purely supplemental way.

Unit 3 - Basic Sound, Lighting, and Rigging

As students are expected to work various campus events that are hosted by the school, it is essential that students know the basic technical skills for running this type of event, that typically includes uses of the sound system for microphones, basic lighting requirements, and rigging duties. Students are expected to work independently at these events and know how to set up and clean up the Performing Arts Center for these types of events, acting in a professional manner. In the last unit, students became very familiar with one particular theatrical aspect. This unit will focus on preparing students for running these types of events individually, without assistance from another student or supervising adult and will include hands on training, lecture, demonstration, and modeling of the sound, lighting, and rigging systems, so they can become proficient in all three, on the basic level.

Unit 4 - Resume Building and Interview Techniques

Students will explore different career opportunities in the professional world, both from the theatrical and film industries, to discover how these career opportunities link to the skills they are learning and how they can be applied later in life. From there, students will acquire proper

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interview techniques, through lecture, modeling, demonstrations, and guided practice, so they can be successful in obtaining internship and eventual career opportunities in the future. Students will also be responsible for researching portfolio and resume requirements for creating their own resume of experience and starting a portfolio of the work they have created. These specific components will help them in the future for eventual career opportunities, whether that is pursuing a career in the theatrical arts/film industry or for work in a different field.

Unit 5 - Production Crew Assignments and Spring Production

As was previously completed in Unit 2, students will be placed in production crews, different from Unit 2, to explore, learn in greater detail, and gain a proficient level in a different theatre arts aspect for the Spring theatrical production at school. The play produced is chosen with a different historical and cultural context for students to study, different from the fall production, giving them a broad range of genre, type, and helping them to identify key historical figures, trends, and works from various historical time periods and cultures. Students will be expected to complete script analysis for the new production, based in the technical theatre element they are currently studying, in order to develop designs that fit the production concept, historical period, and the space the production will be performed in. From their exploration of script analysis, students will foster their strengths in design and implementation for the fall theatrical production, learning the technical requirements and responsibilities of their chosen crew in more detail: studying plots, creating proper ground plans to scale, showing design through color renderings, and learning how to actualize their design into a working piece of the production that they build, hang, pull, or make, as interpreted from their designs. Students will take leadership positions within each unit as their strengths show, allowing students to teach other students. Students will rotate their responsibilities within the unit to be exposed to all aspects of the technical theatre subject being studied at that time. This gives students a very well-rounded opportunity to be immersed in each design aspect. Instruction will be given by lecture, demonstration, and modeling. Various videos will be used in a purely supplemental way.

Unit 6 - Production Crew Assignments and Student Directed Works

As was similar with both Unit 2 and Unit 5 crew assignments, students will be placed in a separate technical crew, different from the other two elements already studied, to learn a new technical theatre aspect not previously studied. The Student Directed Works is unique in the fact that there are multiple showcases that need various crews. Therefore, students will have the opportunity to learn multiple new technical aspects in further detail, that were not previously studied in other units. Students will also have the ability to work in previously learned aspects, to further showcase leadership skills and make design choices consistent with the director's vision, taking on more of a head designer role, rather than assisting for one of the showcases, but only in a previously inhabited crew. The plays produced are chosen with different historical and cultural contexts for students to study, different from the other productions, giving them a broad range of genre, type, and helping them to identify key historical figures, trends, and works from various historical time periods and cultures. Students will be expected to complete script

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analysis for the new productions, based in the technical theatre element they are currently studying, in order to develop designs that fit the production concept, historical period, and the space the production will be performed in. Students will then work to actualize their design into a working piece of the production showcases that they build, hang, pull, or make, as interpreted from their designs.

Unit 7 - Final Design Project

Students will be asked to complete a final design project, where they take a play they would like to work on professionally in their chosen design aspect, and use the confines of the school Performing Arts Center to design a version of that play with their classmates. The project represents the cumulative knowledge gained in technical theatre and is comprehensive in nature. Each script chosen by the students to present will represent a different historical and cultural context in theatre history. It is the responsibility of the student designing for that show to research the correct parts of that history or culture as it applies to the script. For example, a costume for a show set in the 1600's cannot be green polyester. The idea of dramaturgy is discussed and applied to design, and the exposure to the titles, playwrights, and circumstances in theatre history at the beginning of each class will further student understanding. 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.

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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: _____