

Newbury Park High School
Theatre Arts: Theatre II CP
Instructor: Mrs. Marilyn Strange

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Google Classroom Code:

Turnitin.com Code:

Welcome to Theater II! It is my greatest hope that the coming term will be filled with many happy memories, and of course, a great deal of learning! Theatre Arts class will give you the incredible opportunity to develop your imagination and creativity individually, while working as a community in a collaborative environment. We are all here to grow, learn, and encourage each other, together. Please take a few moments to review the policies of my classroom with a parent or guardian and sign and return the attached page by **Friday, January 25th**. Students will also be expected to sign the co-curricular code and contract, to also be returned by **Friday, January 25th**.

REQUIRED PREREQUISITE COURSE: Theatre I or meeting with Mrs. Strange required

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed for the more advanced theatre student who has already established a general background in the theatre, by taking the prerequisite beginning Theatre course. This Performing Arts Class will cover all aspects of theatre in more depth – the play, the audience, the actor, the production with technical theatre elements included, theatre history/time periods and its components, while preparing students for the professional industry of entertainment, or a higher educational opportunity at the college or university level. Group and individual work will be used to develop more complex skills and understanding in movement, voice, story-development, conflict building, characterization, directing, theatrical production techniques, historical theatre movements and theatre terminology. Students will have the opportunity to meet and interact with industry professionals, allowing them to further explore the breadth of possibility in the entertainment world and research potential career paths. Improvisation and memorization are required for this course. Students are additionally required to participate in the Student Directed One Acts production, having them work outside of the regular class hours and school day, on occasion.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Demonstrate self-confidence through acquired performance skills and provide the student the opportunity to develop as a unified whole; emotionally, intellectually, and physically

2. Create truth in imaginary circumstances
3. Understand and appreciate the performing arts through newly discovered knowledge, based upon historical contexts and foundations
4. Discuss the meaning of theatre and its place in contemporary American Society
5. Demonstrate the knowledge of the play production process, including more advanced technical theatre applications, and applying the knowledge to a working production
6. Understand, analyze, and apply knowledge of theatrical components to a theatre arts production and demonstrate the ability to critique the work
7. Develop advanced levels regarding stage presence, vocal projection, stage movement, diction, facial expressions, gestures, characterization, and improvisation skills
8. Obtain skills needed in advanced principles of the technical theatre production: directing, producing, stage management, house management, makeup design, etc.
9. Develop theatre arts vocabulary in relation to performing, theatre historical movements and technical aspects
10. Develop a strong repertoire of audition monologues, that are appropriate for the age and range of the student.

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 Zangle/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.

MANDATORY ASSIGNMENTS:

1. **Daily Participation** – Students can earn up to 5 participation points each day they attend class and participate in the daily activities, which can include exercises, improvisation, warm-ups, and various performance related 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. Only one alternative assignment is required for each consecutive absence.

Alternative assignments may be found on the website, titled “Alternative Assignments”. 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).

2. **Classwork and Group work/projects** – Assignments will be given in class in order to apply principles and incorporate concepts. Some assignments will require group coherence and member attendance is crucial for success.
3. **Performances in Class** – Students will be asked to prepare scenes and monologues outside of class to be performed in class, in connection with the various units discussed, so students can gain a further understanding of the historical context, style of theatre, or character creation that was associated with that form of theatre.
4. **Written Journal Assignments** – Students are responsible for keeping a journal, where they are expected to reflect on in class activities performed, chronicle insights discovered about their creative process, and present information gained from the presented curriculum. Students will often be asked to respond to writing prompts, asking open ended questions about the medium, and asking them to think critically about their process as an artist and the material being presented. These are both in class activities and can also be assigned as homework.
5. **Performance/Play Critiques** – Students are required to attend two (2) theatre performances in the term, either at NPHS or at outside organizations, and complete a compare/contrast critique on the performances, based upon how the student viewed the production as a whole, considering the director’s concepts and analyzing how they were executed throughout the technical aspects, acting choices, and staging of the production. Students also need to reference dramaturgical research they complete, associated with the performance, so they can discuss the historical influences and movements presented in the pieces viewed. The critique will be a minimum of 4 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt font. **You will need to include ticket stubs with the critique.** Please check with me before viewing an outside performance, to make sure it is acceptable for class.
6. **Written Skills Tests and Quizzes** – Covering performance and technical theatre vocabulary, concepts, and class material, written exams will be used as a form of assessment for students.
7. **Midterm Performances** – Students will be expected to perform two contrasting monologues for the midterm. One is to be a classical monologue and the other modern,

showing contrasting characters, range of emotion, and subject matter. These monologues are intended to be used as audition pieces for other events, outside of class, when appropriate, such as auditions for amateur and professional productions, higher education institutions, or scholarship opportunities.

8. **Participation in the Student Directed One Acts** - The Student Directed One Acts Festival is a One Act festival, written, directed, acted, and produced entirely by students, and is performed at the school, showcasing the student work. Students will participate as either an actor or director in the festival, exploring their chosen role in depth, rehearsing in class, receiving regular feedback from their peers and the instructor, and completing analysis assignments that will be included in their Director's Notebook, to be turned in for the final exam.
9. **Directing Notebook** - For the final assessment, the student will either direct or act in a scripted scene, with other actors, to be performed in class. If the student directed in the Student Directed One Acts, they will be acting in the final scenes. If a student acted in the Student Directed One Acts, they will be directing a final scene. A detailed director's notebook will be created to document their thorough script analysis, their directorial process, and their intentions with the project they directed. The notebook will also include documentation of their acting process, character creation, and script analysis, from their chosen acting role in either the Student Directed One Acts or in the final scene performance.

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
- ✓ Any scenes, monologues, plays, or small texts being used in class
- ✓ Agenda Book (optional)

CLASS RULES:

Punctuality is very important. I expect you to be in your seats when I take attendance. Time is precious and being early is on time. Professionalism is expected in this performing arts class elective.

Always be prepared. Please bring appropriate supplies to class, but leave you electronic devices turned off and put away. If I hear or see a student talking on a cell phone, I will take it away. 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. Water bottles are appropriate.

Time does not dismiss you. I will be the only person to dismiss you from class. There might be

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times when we have a guest speaker and class might run over a few minutes.

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.

Respect each other. 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. Do not use costumes, props, or touch equipment without asking my permission.

OVERVIEW OF COURSE

Unit 1: Introduction to Directing

Students have previously taken the prerequisite course of Theatre I, so they have already been introduced to the basics of acting, breathing techniques, vocal projection, body positioning, theatre etiquette and technical theatre knowledge. They will now be expected to expand upon their knowledge and apply it to the role of the director, learning about different directing styles and techniques, developing the skills to analyze a script and creating a clear concept for their project, and deciding how to create a physical environment that encompasses their vision for their Student One Act or final scene. Students will also research different influential theatre companies and directors, and present the material, in a formal summative assessment to the class, in a multi media presentation. The process of proper auditioning techniques, the professional process of auditioning, and current industry standards will be discussed, both by the instructor, and industry professionals.

Unit 2: Greek Theatre

Students will explore the foundations and origins of modern theatre by studying Greek theatre in its various forms, conventions, and infrastructure. Students will be expected to interpret the role of the chorus in Greek theatre, the performance space, mask creation and its role in performance, and the historical significance of Greek theatre, analyzing how its characteristics have influenced and applies to modern theatre today. Students will complete research and read works from Aeschylus, Sophocles, Aristophanes and Euripides. In a formal, summative assessment, students will be performing scenes from various Greek plays, both dramatic and comedic, utilizing their masks within the performance, and showcasing how to express themselves that is appropriate to the needs of the scene and their characters.

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Unit 3: Shakespeare

Students will discuss Shakespeare's life, his progression as a dramatist, and his importance to theatre as we know it today. The language and iambic pentameter of various works will also be analyzed, so that students are able to perform script analysis on a chosen character, understanding what they are saying, and how to best showcase the work in a dramatic and realistic way. For a formal, summative assessment, students will perform a monologue or two person scene for the class, displaying an artistic concept of their choosing, and creating a physical environment that accurately encompasses their vision. A guest director will be invited to class, to workshop the scenes and monologues with the students, so they are able to receive industry professionals critiquing their work.

Unit 4: Stanislavsky Technique and Anton Chekhov

Students will explore the acting method of Konstantin Stanislavsky, his impact on the modern theatre movement, his relationship with Anton Chekhov and the work produced at the Moscow Art Theatre. Through research, exploration exercises, and reading of selected scenes from *The Cherry Orchard*, students will interpret how to develop characters, according to the Stanislavsky method, and apply directing techniques used in their Student Directed One Acts or final scenes. As a summative assessment, students will apply the Stanislavsky method to the performance of their modern monologue, for their midterm. A classical monologue will also be performed, in contrast.

Unit 5: Student Directed One Acts

Students will be working in class to prepare for the Student Directed One Acts Festival. Scenes will be workshopped in class, so that students can receive feedback and assessment from their peers and the instructor, to improve upon their finalized product. Students will also be working with Technical Theatre students, to bring their artistic vision to fruition through the technical elements of a production (costume, set design, lighting, etc.). Students will be assessed on the final performance of their One Act, performed in front of a live audience.

Unit 6: Theatre of the Absurd

Through the study of Samuel Beckett's play *Waiting for Godot*, students will explore the historical significance, avant garde theatre characteristics, stylistic writing choices of Absurdist writers, and unconventionality of Theatre of the Absurd. Students will research other Absurdist writers of the times and present the information about another absurdist play, of their choosing, to the class, and how this work has influenced modern theatre. Students will also be expected to perform a scene from *Waiting for Godot*, for their summative assessment of this unit, utilizing and showcasing characteristics of the Theatre of the Absurd movement, such as pausing, repetition, and existentialist themes.

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Unit 7: Guerilla and Activist Theatre

Students will research the ways in which theatre has been used by activists and artists to affect change, both positive and negative, on various societies. Students will explore El Teatro Campesino and the Free Moscow Theatre, to give them a global perspective on how theatre can be used as an artform of change, how theatre can be transformed to simple methods to promote a bigger message, and how it can be unconventionally staged in more immersive and organic forms. Students will research issues affecting the world today and collaboratively write a one act play script, showcasing their chosen topic in a creative and effective way. Students will then perform this piece at undisclosed locations around campus, promoting the organic feel of this type of theatre.

Unit 8: Student Directed Scenes

As with Unit 5, students will be working in class to prepare for their final directed scenes. Scenes will be workshopped in class, so that students can receive feedback and assessment from their peers and the instructor, to improve upon their finalized product. Students will also be working with Technical Theatre students, to bring their artistic vision to fruition through the technical elements of a production (costume, set design, lighting, etc.). Students will be assessed on the final performance of their scene, performed in front of a live audience. At this time, students will turn in their completed Director's notebook, detailing their creative process, through various exercises, script analysis, and prompts, as both a director and actor in the Student Directed One Acts and the final scenes.

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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.

Student signature

Parent / guardian signature

*Parents and students, please make a regular habit out of checking your grades on Q (formerly Zangle):
Q is available at <https://q.conejousd.org>.

Parent email: _____

Student email: _____