

CLOVIS NORTH



2019/20 SYLLABUS

COURSE ACTIVITIES

This is not a lecture course, but rather an active and dynamic environment. Students are expected to work independently in pairs, groups, and together with the class on a daily basis. A willingness to participate and be active is vital to your success in this class. Students are expected to show responsibility and respect to all students in class. Any bullying behavior will not be tolerated. Drama is, at its core, a very active and interactive class where participation, attendance, and attitudes are vitally important. If a student chooses to demonstrate an inability to work productively in group settings, the student will be removed from that project and given an individual assignment valued at a maximum of 70% of the group project. Effort is KEY. It is understood that all students possess different and varied skill-sets. Maximizing what you have and trying your very best at all times will ensure success every time.

THEATRICAL PLAY CRITIQUES

As an ongoing demonstration of a student's growth and maturity in understanding the standards, concepts, and techniques learned in class, students are expected to see one live stage performance and write a formal critique each semester for a total of 2 for the year. See "Theatrical Critique" handout for additional details. **It is also understood that if attendance of outside performances is a financial hardship arrangements will be made to alleviate this burden. Please communicate that need to Mr. Abels if/when necessary.**

Drama 2 students will be required to write a total of 3 for the year, one for the first semester and two for the second. Drama 3/4/5 Students will be required to write a total of 4 for the year, two each semester.

FILM STUDIES

To supplement class discussions and investigations into the various aspects of theatre arts, the course utilizes various films, performance art, and documentaries. Please see the attached permission slip for more details.

PRODUCTIONS

There are a variety of productions students can audition for including mainstage productions, musicals, plays and our improv team, Constant Interruptions. While we encourage students to explore all aspects of theater, and will discuss potential involvement in student productions, participation in productions outside of class is **NOT** mandatory.

GRADING

Students are graded on an accumulative point system. Parents and students can keep up on their grade by using Zangle, parent and student-connect. I will update the grades on a weekly basis. Students must arrive on time. Failure to arrive on time will result in a loss of participation points. Students must be attentive with fellow performers, failing to give full attention or causing a disturbance in class will result in a loss of participation points as well. Respect for ALL students is imperative in creating a safe environment in which all students have the freedom to express themselves freely. Students must perform on the day they are assigned. If their scene partner is absent from school that day of the scene, the scene is still performed. Another student from the class will read in for the missing partner. Students may make up a missed scene if they have an excused absence. They must make it up at lunch or at a time the student and the teacher have agreed upon. The student has as many days as they were absent to make up the work. Failure to make-up the work will result in a zero. Please come and talk to me when you have missed a performance it is the best way to avoid a zero. Students are graded with a variety of assessments including performance, written tests, journal writing, and critique of a live performance.

IN THE CLASSROOM

This is a safe environment. We must all continually work to listen and respond in the most positive and constructive ways possible. **Respect is key.** You may not agree with your classmates all of the time but we must challenge ourselves to be as positive and respectful towards each other every day. **Cell phones** will be collected at the beginning of each class period and stored in the numbered pocket chart in the front of the classroom. Students will be allowed to access them if needed for various classroom projects. In short, cell phones are NOT to be out in class. **As per school policy, a referral to Student Services will follow if this rule is violated.** **Food** is NOT allowed in the seating area of Space 702. **Gum** is ABSOLUTELY outlawed. **Water** is always fine.

Drama I

Welcome to Drama! This is **not** a class for actors. This is a class that will expose students to the basics of Theatre work and Theatre History. At the end of the year students should be able to perform scenes and monologues fully memorized, with characterization and attempting all basic technical skills, such as; projection, articulation, interpretation of text and exploration of body movement. Students should also have a basic knowledge of theatre history beginning before Ancient Greece through Shakespeare's reign. This course is also an introduction to the technical aspects of theatre including theatrical scenery and costuming. We will also touch on a variety of other theatrical topics including puppetry and film. This is a class for students looking to develop communication skills, leadership, confidence, problem solving, personal responsibility, and heightened creativity. As a by- product of this class, some of you may desire to be actors, but this is a class intended to foster well- rounded individuals. Studies have shown that because you are involved in drama, you will be more successful in school and in many areas in your personal and professional lives, and I'm excited that you're here.

Drama II, III, IV (Advanced Drama)*

Drama II, III, & IV will include all of the requirements and content of Drama I. In ADDITION to Drama I content, these subsequent courses are designed to build on concepts taught in the previous course, and go further in depth into performance drama. We will explore on and off-stage participation, including acting, directing, lighting, sound, and set design, audition skills, play structure and analysis. While a significant emphasis will be placed on acting in these courses, students wishing to expand their theatrical education will be expected to increase their knowledge and proficiency in all theatrical elements. As a demonstration of **audition skills** learned in class, students will be required to participate in the audition process once during the school year for the extra-curricular productions. Students are **NOT** required to commit to participating in these productions but rather to go through the process for the experience, building upon skills learned.

Introduction to Musical Theatre

This course is designed to introduce actors to the fundamentals of Musical Theatre. Students enrolled in this course will develop their knowledge of the historical and social significance of musical theater as well as study the lineage of the American Musical from opera to present day. Actors will practice and apply myriad components of musical theater performance including vocabulary, audition techniques, vocal health, styles of dance, genres of music, and sharpening their overall storytelling and performance skills. Actor's will be introduced to the fundamentals of music theory and sight singing; a crucial part of professional musical theatre performance. Actors will develop their vocal and physical expression as they analyze, rehearse, and perform roles from a variety of Broadway musicals. Students will develop their creative expression and an appreciation for the aesthetic value of theater and they will be able to connect it to other subjects and art forms, building their confidence across the curriculum and specifically in fine arts. For all summative assessments, students will take on different roles as performers, directors, and choreographers for scenes presented in class and for the public. The course will culminate in prepared community cabaret performances.

***Out of Class Volunteer Crew/Production Team (Drama 2. & Advanced Drama ONLY)**

As a major component of our advanced curriculum, students will commit to volunteering outside of the classroom on **one** of the many productions throughout the school year. This may include but not limited to: Stage Manager, Costume/Scenic/Lighting Designer, Running Crew, House Manager, Publicity Manager, Sound Assistant, Hair/Makeup Crew, Properties Manager, Costume Assistance or Construction/Painting Crew.

COURSE CONTENT

ALL courses have been designed according to the Visual and Performing Arts Framework for California Public Schools. All activities, assignments, and projects are designed to bring students to an advanced proficiency of these standards while enriching a student's life experience. These standards are broken down into five categories; artistic perception, creative expression, historical and cultural context, aesthetic valuing, and connections, relationships, and applications.

Mr. Joel Abels-Drama Teacher-Clovis North High School

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