

TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Larkspur, California

Course of Study

Theater Production

Introduction: Theater Production 1-2, Visual and Performing Arts

Schools where course is taught: Tamalpais High School, Redwood High School, Sir Francis Drake High School.

Length of Course: One year, may be repeated once

Subject Area and Discipline: Fine Arts- Drama

Grade Levels: 9 and 10

Is this course an integrated course? No

• **Course Description**

Theatre Production is an 8th period project-based course with a focus on the fundamentals of theater production, theater operations, and performance. Students will become active participants involved in running the student-operated theater company. Concurrent enrollment in either Drama 1-2 or Drama 3-4 courses is required. Students receive extensive structured mentoring from older Advanced Drama peers and professional guest artists. The year-long course will provide a hands-on opportunity to participate in the main stage performance season. Learning opportunities include lighting and sound system operations, backstage crew duties, and introduction to design, as well as performance in a main stage play project. Students will choose or be assigned to a production project from among the following Fall or Spring Production Project options: stage management team, first hand support to costume designer, deck crew, set build crew, electrical, publicity & web team, budget & grant writing team, front of house team, hang and focus team, production management team, festival management team, properties, and/or a main stage ensemble performance project. To fulfill the requirements of the course, students will complete 60 - 100 hours in one or more of the above production options. In addition, students must attend training sessions as required. This course can be repeated for credit. Consent of instructor required.

Prerequisite skills and knowledge:

Prerequisites are concurrent enrollment in Drama 1-2, Drama 3-4 and/or consent of the instructor.

List of program goals/learning outcomes:

- Program Goals to be addressed in this class:
 - Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work
 - Organize and develop artistic ideas and work
 - Refine and complete artistic work
 - Analyze, interpret and select artistic work for presentation
 - Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation
 - Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work
 - Perceive and analyze artistic work
 - Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work
 - Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work
 - Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art
 - Relate artistic ideas and work within societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding

• **The 21st Century Skills** that will be included in this class are: critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, risk-taking and problem solving.

Suggested textbook(s), materials, equipment and resources

There is no single text, but many references and sources will be used including:

Books:

Theater Production and Design

J. Michael Gillette

Scene Design and Stage Lighting

W. Oren Parker, R. Craig Wolf, and Dick Block

Students enrolled in Theater Production are involved in projects with professional theater practitioners who provide significant mentoring in addition to individual work with course instructors.

These books and materials have previously been approved by the board

Requirements satisfied: Elective.

Example Assignments:

Unit #1

Ensemble (Artistic Perception; Creative Expression)

Description: Student participates in Main Stage acting ensemble, attending all rehearsals and performances. Students devise a character in response to the text, writing detailed character biographies which incorporate historical research and original creative choices rooted in the text. Students develop and refine performance techniques throughout the rehearsal process.

Program Goals:

- Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work
- Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation
- Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work

21st Century Skills: Collaboration, Critical thinking and Problem Solving

Attendance at rehearsals - 2 - 4 hours per day, 3 - 5 days per week for 4 - 8 weeks - on time, demonstrating focus and developing character as required by the project. Students become part of the Advanced Ensemble for the duration of the rehearsal and performance process.

Skills Acquired:

Collaboration: Working within a team, respecting timelines, deadlines and timeliness

Communication: Articulating tasks and issues that arise within the team.

Problem solving: Analyzing and addressing needs of the production and developing a plan of action, developing skills necessary to contribute to production.

Creativity: Finding a way to meet the diverse needs of certain plays within the parameters of the performance space.

Assessment:

Students complete a set number of hours for a particular production. Students capture their ongoing work process writing reflectively and articulating their achievements and challenges, and evaluating the effectiveness of the process for both themselves and their peers. Students create an extensive character biography, writing both creatively and analytically in the journal portfolio.

Students demonstrate understanding of rehearsal process by being on time and communicating any necessary conflicts.

Unit #2

Technical Theater (Connections, Relationships and Applications)

Description: Collaborative Work in Production:

Students work in teams led by peers, teachers and guest artist mentors creating all physical elements of the production: lighting, scenic, sound, costumes and props. Students collaborate with cross-age peers in design teams and shop staff groups to research and identify literary themes and apply thematic and literary analysis to the physical manifestation of the design elements. Design choices and decisions must be aligned with concept, approach and text. Students manage a timeline in tandem with the rehearsal process for the production leading up to the public performances.

Program Goals:

- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work
- Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation
- Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work

21st Century Skills: Collaboration, Critical thinking and Problem Solving

To that end, the student will demonstrate his or her understanding by:

- Maintaining a journal portfolio of work
- Reflective writing on his or her process
- Producing renderings, drafting, cue sheets and other content specific documentation of their ideas and processes

Sample Assignment: Lighting crew. Students work in teams under a peer lighting designer and master electrician, hanging, troubleshooting, patching, coloring and focusing a light plot for a specific production. Through their electrics work, students understand lighting as a visual artistic application through which the themes of the play are communicated.

Skills Acquired:

Collaboration: working within a team, respecting timelines, deadlines and timeliness.

Communication: Articulating tasks and issues that arise within the team.

Problem solving: Analyzing and addressing needs of the production and developing a plan of action.

Creativity: Finding a way to meet the diverse needs of certain plays within the performance space.

Assessment:

Students successfully complete a set number of hours for a particular production and within their particular discipline. Students track their hours and write reflectively about their experiences and are able to articulate their achievements and challenges.

Unit #3

Design Lab (Historical and Cultural Context; Aesthetic Valuing)

Description: Students participate in skills lab for visual design and research, attending select rehearsals, design classes, and production meetings. Students devise a design in response to the text, and incorporating historical research, visual research and an original concept based on the contemporary

resonance of the text. Students develop and refine visual literacy throughout the rehearsal process. Students study and analyze existing visual and performing art works.

Program Goals:

- Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work
- Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation
- Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work

21st Century Skills: Collaboration, Critical thinking and Problem Solving

Attendance at design lab and production meetings - 1 - 4 hours per day, 3 - 5 days per week for 4 - 8 weeks - on time, demonstrating focus and developing character as required by the project. Students become part of the Advanced Ensemble for the duration of the rehearsal & performance process.

Skills Acquired:

Collaboration: working within a team, respecting timelines and deadlines.

Communication: Presenting a concept and referencing the connection between research, visual composition and theme; articulating tasks and issues that arise within the team.

Problem solving: Analyzing and addressing needs of the production and developing a plan of action, developing skills necessary to contribute to production.

Creativity: Finding a way to meet the diverse needs of each play within the parameters of the performance space.

Sample Assignment: Mother Courage Research Project, investigating the artist's voice and response to war. Students visit historical military sites, sketching and painting to record images and experience; students take part in a guest lecture on political theater and didactic arts; students view visual artworks, analyzing and writing about how visual composition is used to convey underlying viewpoints regarding political events.

Assessment:

Students complete a set number of hours for a particular production. Students capture their ongoing work process writing reflectively and articulating their achievements and challenges, and evaluating the effectiveness of the process for both themselves and their peers. Students create an extensive design portfolio, writing both creatively and analytically in the journal portfolio. Students demonstrate understanding of rehearsal process by being on time and communicating any necessary conflicts.

Reference sources include the internet, magazines and published how-to manuals and books such as Theatre: Art in Action (ISBN-13: 9780844253077 Publisher: National Textbook Company)

Course Authors: Britt Block, Peter Parish and Susan Brashear- Drama Instructors in the Tamalpais Union High School District.

UC (f) Approved 3/18/16

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