

# Introduction to Theatre

Mrs. Beck-Ard (Miz. B)

[Laura.beck-ard@corvallis.k12.or.us](mailto:Laura.beck-ard@corvallis.k12.or.us)

Classroom phone number- 541-757-3820

[www.mizb.info](http://www.mizb.info)

## Course Description

Introduction to theatre is a semester-long, comprehensive introduction to the theatre. Students will be given a broad general background in theatre including production elements (lights, sound, sets, costumes, etc) acting, theatre history and criticism. Students will read plays, watch live performances and videos of plays, write reviews of live and filmed theatre, complete design projects, historical research projects, do a number of acting exercises and prepare cuttings from plays for presentation to the class.

## Instructional Activities

### **Production Elements**

*Rigging*  
*Lighting*  
*Sound*  
*Set design*  
*Stagecraft basics*  
*Costuming*  
*Make-up*

### **Theatre Criticism**

*Reviews of plays, films and  
in-class work*

### **Acting**

*The actor's instrument*  
*Warm up*  
*Pantomime*  
*Improvisation*  
*Movement*  
*Voice*  
*Memorization*  
*Characterization*  
*Basic Script Analysis*

### **Theatre History**

*The Ancient World*  
*Theatre of the Middle Ages*  
*Renaissance Theatre*  
*Restoration Theatre*  
*18<sup>th</sup> Century Theatre*  
*19<sup>th</sup> Century Theatre*  
*Contemporary Theatre*  
*Existentialism*

## Assessment Procedures

Oregon House Bill 2220 requires student grades be calculated from summative assessments – examples include tests, theater labs, scenes/presentations/speeches, projects, or other measures of student learning. Coursework intended as practice for learning may be assigned and recorded in Pinnacle with a 0% weighting – examples include in-class assignments, homework, participation, and other learning activities. Graded assignments for this class will include; Mini design project, quizzes, written reviews, journal entries, graded scenes, historical research project, midterm examination, final examination, active participation of theater labs. You will be given some class time to complete assignments, but there will be work and memorization that will need to be done on your own time. Budget your time carefully!

## **Re-Assessment**

All missing work will be required to be completed before re-assessment opportunities are allowed. All re-assessment **must** be completed before the last two weeks of each semester.

## **Plagiarism Policy**

The Plagiarism Policy will be followed in this course. Please see the student planner/handbook for details of this policy.

## **Tardy Policy**

We will begin warm ups promptly when the bell rings. Any student who comes to class after that time will be considered tardy. As warm up is a part of the proficiencies being assessed, multiple tardies will affect your being able to adequately meet the proficiency. After three tardies your parent/guardian will be contacted so that we may work together to work on a solution.

## **Attendance Policy**

Teachers will notify students and parents/guardians when unexcused absences begin affecting the student's participation or performance in a class. When a teacher refers a student who is accumulating excessive absences, the administrator may initiate necessary conferences, contracts, as well as other appropriate interventions and consequences.

## **Career Related Learning Standards Addressed in this Course**

**Personal Management** – Exhibit appropriate work ethic and behaviors in school, community, and workplace.

**Problem Solving** – Apply decision-making and problem solving techniques in school, community, and the workplace.

**Communication** – Demonstrate effective communication skills to give and receive information in school, community, and workplace.

**Teamwork** – Demonstrate effective teamwork in school, community, and workplace.

## **Participation**

Participation is achieved by being an active contributor and an active listener in class. I will evaluate your participation and understanding in part by observing you individually and in groups. Participation also reflects your respect of the theatre process as we discuss the material and questions that come up in class, the respect you show others in the group- including the teacher- and your active presence in class. You CANNOT participate if you are not in class, therefore unexcused absences and tardies will seriously affect your proficiencies. Students who do not participate in class, or who have excessive attendance issues will be included in a parent/teacher/student conference to try and determine a workable solution for all. Theatre is a participatory activity. You cannot adequately achieve excellence in proficiencies by remaining passive, having a negative attitude or not coming to class.

## **Late Work Policy**

Deadlines in the theatre are some of the most absolute there are, so we need to observe them closely. Work is due at the beginning of the period on the day due. Work which is late because of an *excused* absence is due on your return to class or at an agreed upon date. Excused absences are only those for illness, emergencies, school-related absences, medical appointments or pre-arranged absences cleared with the attendance office. In special circumstances, a modified due date can be arranged so long as Miz B is notified in ADVANCE of an absence.

## **Outside-Class Activities**

You need to plan for scene rehearsals outside of class time. While some class time will be given to rehearse scenes, in all likelihood it will not be enough. Scenes that are under-rehearsed or under-prepared will receive substantially lower scores and may not meet proficiencies

## **Class Rules & Expectations**

- You are expected to be in the room, ready for warm-up when class begins.
- There is **NO GUM**, no food, and no drink (besides water) allowed in my class at any time.
- **NO** flip flops or open toed shoes on stagecraft and rigging days
- **NO** short skirts or other revealing clothing. Wear clothes in which you can roll around on the ground

## **Materials Needed**

The following items need to be brought to **every** class:

- Pencil (NO PENS)
- Script you are working on at the time
- A three prong/ two pocket folder filled with lined paper (color to be assigned in class)
- A binder or other place to keep papers and scripts neat and wrinkle free.

There is NEVER an excuse for not having your script and/or design work with you when class begins. Plan, plan, plan!