

Theatre Arts IV Honors Curriculum Guide

Course # 848.01

July 2009

Level: H 1.20

Credits: 5

Prerequisite: Completion of Theatre Arts I, II, III and Permission from the teacher.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to educate, reinforce, challenge, perform and evaluate skills and knowledge acquired in Theatre Arts I, II and III at a collegiate level of study and performance. First, the students will target and challenge individual strengths and weaknesses in acting by participating in exercises designed to identify, improve and sharpen each performers' organization, concentration, critical thinking, creativity, memorization, confidence, and self-awareness. Secondly, the students will continue to develop and sustain individual and ensemble performance techniques through the use of various exercises in physical and technical awareness. They will also further increase and demonstrate their familiarity and experience with the roles, responsibilities and skills of the actor and the director in regard to character development, blocking, play analysis, and moment to moment reality in a given scene or production. Select students favoring technical theatre will continue to explore and challenge their knowledge of various backstage roles in theatre such as lighting, sound, stage management, set design...etc. All students will continue to trace the history of the theatre and they will read, interpret, observe, perform, analyze and discuss scenes and plays from a variety of periods. Once again, this is a performance class and will involve actual directing, acting, and designing.

High Point Regional High School's curriculum and instruction are aligned to the State's Core Curriculum Content Standards and address the elimination of discrimination by narrowing the achievement gap, by providing equity in educational programs and by providing opportunities for students to interact positively with others regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender, religion, disability or socio-economical status.

CCCS Addressed: Standards 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5 of the Visual and Performing Arts

Course Objective: After the completion of Theatre Arts I, II, III and IV, all students will have had instruction, practice and performance experience utilizing all of the elements of study outlined in the course description. The successful completion of all activities will provide the student with the highest level of theatre performance and study.

The following units will be designed and executed to identify and challenge each candidate's individual strengths and weaknesses in theatre. Each candidate will be expected to prepare, perform and be evaluated at a collegiate level of study.

Units:

Unit 1: Theatre Games/Ice-Breakers/Improvisation

8 weeks

Unit Goals:

1. Observe, evaluate and perform various advanced theatre games and exercises to stimulate focus, pace, spontaneity, and creativity.
2. Review and discuss objectives met in Theatre Arts I, II and III.
3. Develop classroom rules and a work ethic for study and performance.
4. Build a greater self-awareness, confidence, energy and concentration within each experience.

Unit 2: Characterization and Scene Analysis

9 weeks

Unit Goals:

1. Read, interpret and analyze whole and parts of dramatic scripts, taking into account the context, and constructively suggesting alternative artistic choices.
 2. Review the structure of drama (protagonist, exposition...etc).
 3. Reinforce analysis of the physical, emotional, and social dimensions of characters found in dramatic texts.
 4. Strengthen and practice the characterization process based on an individual's strengths and weaknesses. Internalizing, externalizing, concentrating, observing, emotional memory, projecting, motivating, stretching the character, the consistent inconsistency, playing the conditions, playing the objectives, playing the obstacles, playing the object, energy, focus and uniqueness.
 5. Experiment with various acting techniques and methods to strengthen each individual characterization process.
 6. Prepare, create, perform and sustain given roles/characters in various monologues and scenes.
 7. Define and explore stage combat.
 8. Demonstrate a consistent artistic discipline to achieve excellence in a rehearsal or performance setting.
- Constructively and honestly evaluate their own and other's efforts and choices in a performance.

Unit 3: Assistant Director/Communicating What You Have Learned Year Long

Unit Goals:

1. Effectively observe, listen and constructively critique student choices and skills in Theatre Arts III.
2. Guide, suggest, and demonstrate alternate choices of interpretation and performance in scene work being prepared by students in Theatre Arts III.

Unit 4: Theatre History and Styles

3 weeks

Unit Goals:

1. Review and expand drama terminology.
2. Review the varieties of drama (tragedy, farce, melodrama...etc.)
3. Research a given playwright, play or concept.
4. Identify, interpret and demonstrate performances in classical literature.

Unit 5: Directing**8 weeks****Unit Goals:**

1. Explore and practice the role of the director.
2. Demonstrate, explore and practice the process of blocking a scene.
3. Develop multiple interpretations and visual production choices for a scene.
4. Effectively communicate directorial choices to an actor or small ensemble in Theatre Arts III.
5. Demonstrate skill and confidence in the audition process.

Unit 6: Production**6 weeks****Unit Goals:****Final Exam Preparation and Performance**

1. Students will assume the role of the actor, the director or both within a one-act play for their final exam performance based on their class performance throughout the year. Select students whose abilities excel backstage may opt to assume the role of designer. Groups will be divided based on ability, character description and scene criteria.
2. Students will be expected to help choose and cast, memorize, analyze, costume, stage, accessories and interpret an extended scene or one-act play for performance. Each student will be evaluated with a detailed rubric appropriate to the role they are performing.

Other Requirements:

1. Students will continue to observe and critique amateur and professional productions.
2. Students will strengthen appropriate rehearsal etiquette for each unit and learn to utilize each daily class period to the fullest extent.
3. Students will continue to practice the correct use of constructive criticism as well as working effectively in a group activity repeatedly throughout the year.

Materials and Methods to be used:

1. Lecture and Demonstration
2. Stage, Television, and Film excerpts and performances appropriate to each unit.
3. Various professional texts/scripts copied for lecture, exercises and performances.
4. Research
5. Interaction, communication and performance with students in Theatre Arts III.

Evaluation:

Participation	30%
Tests/Projects/Assignments	30%
Mid-term Exam (May 2009)	20%
Final Exam (May 2009)	20%

