

## ACTING I / Intro to Theatre

Arena Theatre

### 2610 DSHA

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**Schedule a time for office hours.**



*National Standards in Theatre Arts Grades 9 – 12: TH1, TH2, TH4, TH7, TH8*

## Course Expectations

The following is a list of academic and behavioral guidelines for students involved with all acting classes. Expectations require students to put forth their best effort at all times and with a positive attitude. Grades will reflect participation, student achievement, attitude, respect, and ability to demonstrate an understanding of concepts portrayed throughout the semester.

### Course Format:

It is important that the classroom environment contains an atmosphere that is positive, enthusiastic, and safe for everyone. Acting is an art form in which you, the performer, are consistently stepping outside of your comfort zone and taking risks. The success of the class is contingent on everyone working as a team and showing support for one another. The class will be exploring: blocking, stage directions, improvisation, believability, monologue performance and speech presentations. You will be consistently interacting with the other classmates. Everyone should feel comfortable experimenting and growing as actors at all times. Lack of respect to the theatre, me, or other classmates will severely impact your final grade in this course.

### Classroom Supplies / Attire:

Class will be held in the Arena Theatre. This is a physical class therefore students must wear shorts under their skirts and must be in soft-soled shoes (if dance floor is not laid down) or bare feet. During class times you may remove your uniform skirts and perform activities in your shorts. The rest of your uniform should be worn. You may also keep a pair of closed toed shoes and a sweatshirt in a “labeled” bag in the dressing room. The temperature of the Arena varies drastically from day to day. The dressing room is also where you can use the bathroom before class. You will need a notebook with pockets or a binder containing lined paper for this course to take some notes and hold the various materials you will receive throughout the semester. You will also need to bring a pencil (not pen) at all times. Anyone not prepared or not in correct attire will not be allowed to participate in class that day and it will be counted as an absence.

### Classroom Procedures:

- Attend and PARTICIPATE in class regularly. Please be changed and ready to go on time. Grades will be affected by frequent absenteeism and tardiness and unwillingness to participate. If you are unwilling to be active in class then you may want to re-think taking this course. Willingness to participate NOT talent is what gets you an A in this course.
- Be prepared for class. Always have your shorts, assignments due, notebook or binder, and pencil. All assignments should be handed in on time and in the instructed format. You must email me to get the work you missed. Late assignments will result in a grade reduction.
- All other belongings should be left in the dressing room or hallway.
- Restrooms should be visited en route to class not during. There are restrooms located in the dressing room BUT you are expected to be in your chairs by bell time.
- Each student is responsible for practicing the “golden rule” during all activities and lessons. “Treat others as you would like to be treated.” Always show respect for your growing peers and practice good audience etiquette during performances. Be supportive and attentive to each other’s work.
- There is no food, chewing gum, or drinks (including water) allowed in the theatre at any time.
- All students will remain silent and respect morning / afternoon prayer and announcements.

### Absences:

When absent, **you are responsible for obtaining all materials and assignments.** This can be done by emailing me or contacting a classmate. It is the student’s responsibility to determine what is missed and when it is due. If you are missing consecutive days you must contact me at my DSHA email address. **Please note:** This is a performance based class so most work cannot be made up. It is vital you make every effort to be in class. There will be a reduction in grade after three missed classes OR tardy attendances. *School-sponsored absences are not counted, however you must still make up all work.*

### Extra Credit:

You may earn extra credit in the course and will be set up on an individual basis.

*My office is always open to discuss anything from expectations, grades, and extra credit. I am not available zero or first hour. The best time to reach me is during resource times, lunches, 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> hour.*

## Grading Criteria

### Class participation / Attendance: 25%

This is a performance class. You must do your best to be present in body and mind. This includes a positive attitude and an open mind to try new things. Over three tardiness's or absences will result in grade reduction.

#### In grading class participation three areas will be looked at:

1. Were you prepared and were all assignments completed on time?
2. The amount of absences and tardiness's.
3. Possessing a positive and respectful attitude in class at ALL times.

A =	Student exceeded all expectations and requirements. All assignments were done on time; student missed fewer than two absences and always possessed a positive attitude in class.
B =	Student did what was required in the course but was lacking in one of the three areas.
C =	Student gives a minimum of what is expected and is lacking in two of the three areas.
D =	Student failed to give what was expected in class and was lacking in all three areas.
F =	Students failed to attend class and turn in assignments.

### Intro to Theatre Unit: 25%

*Content Standard 8: Analyzing the role of theatre in the past and present. / Summative and Formative Assessment: Tests, review games, worksheets.*

Through exercises and quizzes you will learn stage directions, terminology, parts of the stage, working with blocking, writing blocking, and theatre etiquette. As part of the Intro to Theatre Unit you will also be required to attend the winter and spring productions and write a critique for one of them applying the terminology you learned in previous lessons.

### Intro to Technical Theatre: 15%

*Content Standard 7: Analyzing, critiquing, constructing formal theatre. / Formative and Summative Assessment: Written essay, performance hours, review and applying theatre terminologies.*

Part of Intro to Theatre is getting to see what happens to make a main stage production work. Everyone is required to perform three hours of set construction on the winter play. There are multiple opportunities for you to obtain these hours: After school Monday through Thursdays or one of our Saturday mornings in Feb for three hours.

You will also participate in some basic in-class technical theatre lessons. You will be graded for this unit based on class participation, application of technical skills, and fulfillment of required hours.

### Improvisation Techniques Unit:

*Content Standard 1 and 2: Script writing and character through improvising informal productions.*

*Formative and Summative Assessment: Performance assessments, role play, self and peer critique, review questions, group work.*

In this unit you will be graded solely on participation and a positive attitude and willingness to try new things. We will learn the uses and importance of improvisation and how it connects to the theatre. We will improvise scene work and other group interactions exploring how to listen and work with your actors on stage. You will be graded for this unit through active participation and your ability to lead the class in an exercise.

### Believability / Body Work Unit:

*Content Standard 1 and 2: Script writing and character through improvising informal productions.*

*Formative and Summative: Performance assessment, role play, peer and self critique, review games, group work.*

We will explore the power and necessity of using our bodies in the creation of believable characters. Various exercises will be done working toward aligning our bodies and feeling comfortable on stage. We will briefly read and write about Stanislavsky and delve into the meaning that "acting is believability." You will be graded for this unit through class participation.

### Monologue / Speech Work: 25%

*Content Standard 2: Acting by developing, communicating, and sustaining characters in a formal script.*

*Formative and Summative: Peer critique, performance assessment, self critique, essay.*

We will learn the meaning of characterization, obstacles, and objectives and how they translate into believability as an actor. You will learn the importance of scoring a monologue and speech. You will then score and perform two to three monologues for the class and one speech. You will be graded using a performance based rubric (example included) as well as self and peer evaluations.

### Final Performance: 10%

*Content Standard 2 and 4: Acting and directing a formal scene. / Formative and Summative: Performance assessment, self and peer critique, essay.*

The semester will culminate in a monologue or speech that you will prepare and perform. You will apply the skills of stage directions, believability, scoring and characterization into your prepared piece. This will be performed and evaluated in class as your final. You will be graded on the scoring of your piece, performance growth, and teacher, self and peer evaluations.

**Example of a Performance Rubric**

<p><b><u>Acting I Monologues</u></b></p> <p><b>Student Name:</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p><i>(Please rate each category from 5 – 10.)</i></p> <p>Memorization _____</p> <p>Focus: _____</p> <p>Transitions: _____</p> <p>Believability: _____</p> <p>Achieved Objectives: _____</p> <p><b>TOTAL SCORE:</b> _____</p>
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**ACTING I: OUTCOMES**

*By the end of Acting I, a student will:*

- Demonstrate growth in the Qualities of the DSHA Graduate: leader, believer, critical thinker and communicator
- Gain basic understanding of theatre terminology and the theatre space
- Demonstrate poise, skills and confidence as a public speaker
- Contribute effectively in groups
- Work as a member of a team to create believable scenarios
- Analyze and score dramatic literature
- Analyze and critique performances
- Analyze and create a monologue performance
- Evaluate, critique and respond to body language (non-verbal expressions)
- Audition effectively and interview effectively
- Develop healthy vocal technique
- Develop and perform a scene with a small group
- Self-evaluate performances
- Cultivate spatial awareness
- Gain technical theatre skills, specifically working on the fall musical