

Agoura High School Theatre

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A-PAEC Black Box

Period 1

Introduction to Acting

The 2023-2024 **Introduction to Acting** program is designed to make the students aware of the many aspects of onstage and offstage production, specifically focusing on acting techniques, as well as, many of the technical aspects of production. The students acquire the basic knowledge and practical skills involved in producing live theatre performances based in historical and cultural context. They acquire abilities and confidence to perform with conviction before an audience, learning to evaluate others and self. In addition to acting skills and techniques, students are introduced to improvisation, pantomime, movement, script analyses and theatre terminology.

OUTLINE OF UNITS

- I. Introduction to Acting/creating environment/establishing ensemble techniques
- II. Stage Directions, Vocabulary and Terminology
- III. Actor Exercise (physical and vocal) - Close to Self
- IV. Improvisation and C.R.O.W. (Character / Relationship / Objective / Where)
- V. Pantomime
- VI. Emotional recall and personalization
- VII. Theatre History
- VIII. Original Writing and Performance
- IX. Monologue work
- X. Assigned Scene Work - 2 and 3 person pieces

The selection of units depends upon class size, time availability, and student development. The units are to be used at teacher discretion, and may be combined to other units. Point value for work increases throughout the semester.

Course Policies

Classroom Expectations:

Support a safe classroom environment

Come to class on time and ready to work

Respect others, the teacher, the space and yourself

Imagine and Invent

Participate actively and positively

Take risks

PLEASE NOTE: No food, gum, phones, disrespect for fellow students, unexcused lateness, electronics will be tolerated - any of these offenses can cause an automatic fail for the day!!

Attendance and Tardies: This is a **PERFORMANCE/ACTIVITY** class. If you are absent you will miss the daily work we do here and excessive absences (more than 3 in a semester) will hurt your grade. Most of the work we do is in-class and participatory. IF YOU ARE ABSENT, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY, not mine, to contact me concerning work missed during your absence(s). However, due to the performance/activity nature of the course, many performance activities and assignments can't be made up. **Early departure** from a class also counts as an **absence**. Please ensure that your parents schedule your appointments around your classes.

Late Paper Policy: No late papers will be accepted without previous consent of the instructor due to personal circumstances. I prefer to receive papers on the deadline, but if you would like to discuss an extension, arrangements must be made AHEAD of the deadline or the paper will not be accepted. During the week of any school production in which you are involved, you are allowed a one week extension on the assignment. Please remind me before the deadline that it is your production week.

Communication: Because this is a class that does not meet every day, it is important that you regularly communicate with me regarding any questions or concerns. If you do not understand an assignment, please contact me via email. I am certainly available to speak during Nutrition or Lunch. If there are any changes in the syllabus, I will inform you as soon as possible. Please be respectful of the instructor and of classmates: please respond to emails promptly.

Academic misconduct: including plagiarism and other forms of cheating, will not be tolerated. If you choose to plagiarize, I will report your actions to our academy authorities and you will receive a failing grade. Plagiarism may be grounds for being dismissed from our school.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, CONTENT & EVALUATION BREAKDOWN

Class Participation Grade: (50%)

This course requires that you be an *active participant* during each class, whether as performer or audience member

Assorted Graded Performance Assignments: (40%)

Numerous formally graded group or individual assignments throughout the semester. Performance assignments will include group identification assignments, acting scenes, improvisation work, and other assorted assignments.

Actor's Journal: (10%)

A journal will be kept reflecting upon your ongoing acting work, including reflections about class, rehearsals, or other life experiences related to acting. This is an opportunity to hold a dialogue with the instructor, ask questions, and contemplate the daily successes and failures while studying acting.

Extra Credit:

Extra credit can be made available by submitting a reflection paper to the instructor detailing a specific performance or theatre festival the student attended. Assignment needs to be cleared with the instructor before submitting the assignment for credit.

Method of Evaluation: letter grade

Grading:

90%-100%=A

80%-89%=B

70%-79%=C

68%-69%=D

67% or below=F

THEATRE ARTS CALIFORNIA STATE STANDARDS

- To develop artistic perception, creative expression, and aesthetic valuing
- To be able to identify historical and cultural context
- To connect and apply theatre arts to other subject areas and to careers

GRADING

Students are graded on all of the following:

1. Attendance: Excessive absences and tardies can result in a U in cooperation
2. Participation: Lack of participation will result in a U in work habits.
3. Google Classroom Site and Journals (checked every grading period)
4. Completion of written work
5. Written examinations and quizzes
6. Performances and Showcases
7. Teacher and student evaluation
8. Attendance at the Agoura play or musical
9. Inability to move in appropriate clothing
10. Students are required to make up any missed work due to excused absences. Missed work due to unexcused absences will not be accepted. Students have the equivalent number of days to submit/perform the work as the number of days they were absent.

_____ *Please tear off* _____

I have read the outline of units /course requirements / goals as well as the grading policies for this class.

Student Name _____

Course title and period _____

(Student signature)

(Date)

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(Parent/Guardian signature)

(Date)