

Vidalia High School Theater Arts Syllabus

Fall 2023

Remind 101 Code : text @6b4a4dh to 81010

Teacher: M. Pournelle

Course Description: This is an elective course in which students will engage in various aspects of the theater, such as acting, directing, lighting, sound, costume, props, and make-up. The course is intended to help each student develop his/her skills and strengths in the area of theater in which he/she is most interested. The course will consist on learning the basic aspects of Stanislavki's "method," as well as various interpretations of "the method," especially focusing on character development and script analysis. The course will also consist of preparing short plays to be performed in conjunction with the community performance nights of the VHS One-Act Play, as well as individual scene work, improvisation exercises, small plays, and a large class project production at the end of the semester. The course will require much partner and group work. Sometimes students may view certain actors' performances in movies in order to analyze acting technique or receive exposure to theatrical or cinematic history.

Objectives:

- to learn the basic tenets of Stanislavki's "method" and various interpretations
- to learn and apply character development
- to analyze a script (units, beats, actions, objectives, theme, etc.)
- to develop improvisational skills
- to work with scene partners and groups effectively
- to gain a working knowledge of lights and sound
- to perform scenes
- to contribute to the production of short plays to add to community night performances of the VHS One-Act Play
- to participate in a class project Christmas production (to be performed at the end of the semester: TWO TEST GRADES)

One-act play dates are as follows:

- Region Competition - TBA dates submitted were Wed., Oct 25, Nov. 1, Nov. 2 (it really could be any of those days or any day during those two weeks)
- Georgia Theatre Conference - October 18-21, 2023 (our performance date and time TBA)
- Community Performances - Sun., Nov. 5 at 3:00 (understudy performance); Monday, November 6 AND Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 7:00 PM (class members must attend all performances; many of you will be performing in short plays to be presented before the one-act play; each performance will be a test grade); *call times for Sunday will be 12:00 noon; call times for Nov. 6 and 7 will be 3:30 unless otherwise specified)
- to perform, direct, or contribute in any assigned role (acting, stage crew, or otherwise) to the production of a class project project (will count 3x as a test grade) that **will be performed at Vidalia High School on December 14, 2022 at 7:00 PM; AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE, as well, on December 12 and December 13 from 3:30 to 6:00).**

Grading

*The student's grade will depend largely upon class participation (daily grades) and major projects (contributions to Vidalia High School One-Act Play and the production of a class project). Attendance and class participation is vital.

Daily Grades (rubrics will be provided throughout the semester; daily grades could vary for each student: for example, some students may be acting, some may be working with props; each student must fully participate in his/her assignment) – 40%

Quizzes (rubrics will be provided if the quiz grade is a performance task; some quizzes may be written) – 15%

Tests – 25% (Tests will include major performances; maybe some written assignments; attendance at/participation in the class project performance will count 3 test grades for each student)

Final Exam – 20% - a performance task

Expectations/Behavior

- **Students will receive deductions on daily grades (especially performance-based tasks) for the following behavior**
 - o Cell phone use during class, scenes, instruction, etc. (Students may be asked to turn in cell phones at the beginning of class if cell phone use becomes a problem.)
 - o Not participating (refusal to work with partners; refusal to contribute to scene work, analysis, etc., refusing to perform)
 - o Talking/horseplay (during instruction, during OTHERS' scene work, backstage—at ANY INAPPROPRIATE TIME)
 - o mocking or INAPPROPRIATE laughter during ANYONE's scenework, whether it's for the class project or for one-act play
 - o Off-task (not completing an assignment; not working diligently on an assignment, whatever it may be; **In this class, you often have to work independently or in small groups while Miss Pournelle is working with others; you have her trust until you give her a reason not to trust you)
 - o Not being prepared for class (memorization, analysis, etc.)
 - o Disputes or arguments with other students affecting work during class
 - o Disrespect to Miss Pournelle
 - o Not helping set up or take down any sets or props (ESPECIALLY if Miss Pournelle asks the class to help!!)
 - o Lying/congregating in the back of the theater/lying down on the floor, behind the back row, in the corners, etc.
 - o Not putting away or caring for costumes
 - o Breaking, vandalizing, or losing props, costumes, sets, etc.
 - o Not bringing scripts or materials to class
 - o Leaving the theater/class room for ANY reason without permission
 - o Being in an unauthorized portion of the theater
 - o Poor attendance
 - o Running/horseplay in the theater, backstage, in the aisles, etc.
 - BEWARE of pulling on curtains, running around curtains, or any electronic equipment, spotlights, etc.
 - o offensive language or speech (please be aware of this during improvis)
 - o NO PDA (public displays of affection) WHATSOEVER!!! Not everyone welcomes physical touch, and not everyone wants to see it!
 - o Not caring for the theater (leaving trash backstage or in the seats, eating or drinking in seating area, not cleaning the space)
 - o no touching equipment from any other program (band, show choir, etc.)

Theater Arts Fall Semester 2023 Syllabus Sign-Off

Students:

I have read, understand, and agree to the terms stated in the syllabus for Theater Arts, understanding especially that the class is largely graded on daily participation. I also understand that attendance at/participation in performance events outside of class is required. I will comply with the terms stated in the syllabus and with all rules/requirements stated in the Vidalia High School Student Handbook.

Student Name (printed)

Student Signature

Date

Parents:

I have read the course syllabus for my student's Theater Arts class and understand and will comply with all of its contents. I understand that my student is required to attend/participate in performance events outside of school hours, such as the culminating class project and the one-act play community performances (attendance at these events and for outside rehearsals is mandatory and constitutes TEST GRADES for the class).

Parent/Guardian Name (printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parents, please provide Miss Pournelle with your email and phone contact:

Email contact: _____

Phone contact: _____