

Introduction to Theatre 1/ Syllabus

Koch

The focus of the Introduction to Theatre class is to build students self-confidence, self-esteem, and public speaking skills through the use of theatre games and activities. Students will be exposed to the artistry and creativity of the world of theatre.

Pre-requisite: None - you can take this class and not be in the magnet.
This one-year course counts for the A-G Visual and Performing Arts Requirement, FUSD Fine Arts Requirement, and/or Elective Credit.

A. **GRADES** will be determined based on eight areas:

1. **Tests, quizzes**
2. **Participation.** Grades on regular and active participation in class activities. You will be docked 10 points per day if the absence is unexcused. Unexcused tardies will result in a 3-point deduction.
3. **Homework.** Although, in many cases, drama homework will be of the nature of memorization, rehearsal, and planning, it is of no less importance than math or science worksheets. Coming to class unprepared will lower your grade.
4. **Play Attendance: Students will attend all main-stage plays produced at Roosevelt.** The student will write and/or give an oral critique for each play attended. Your student will become more appreciative and knowledgeable of the whole theatrical process by increased exposure to it. "Live theatre" cannot be taught out of a book, therefore in order for students to gain this appreciation they must see the plays produced here at Roosevelt in our auditorium. Cost for the performance is \$5.00 for students and \$10.00 for adults. If students cannot afford the cost of a ticket, they need to see the teacher or Mrs. Sanders (the RSA director) prior to the performance to make arrangements.
5. **Playwriting:** Students will study play structure, characterization, and theme. Students will participate in creative writing exercises, which culminate in scene writing. These are read, discussed in class, and some are produced if time allows. Grades are determined by the smaller creative writing assignments as well as the developed scene.
6. **Grades on class performances** such as monologues, scenes, skits, and improvisation. These are graded subjectively using established rating scales.
7. **Extra Credit.** Among other possibilities, extra credit is given for attendance at and critique of any outside theatrical performance to include on campus "Brown Bags," local groups, touring companies, and out of town shows. Also, students can put in hours of technical work by helping to build the sets or costumes for our main stage productions. This can be after school or on Saturday. Students will know well in advance when there will be a crew call for technical hours. In order to receive credit, students must sign in and out.

B. **LATE WORK** will normally not be accepted.

Introduction to Theatre Syllabus (cont.)

- C. MAKE UP WORK FOR ABSENCES** will be accepted for full credit for excused absences only. Students will be allowed one day for each day absent to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to find out what was missed and to make arrangements to make it up the first day upon returning to class. Do this before class starts. Make ups will be held during lunch or by arrangement with the teacher.
- D. ATTENDANCE, TARDIES, and DRESS CODE** The Roosevelt High School attendance, tardy, and dress code policy will be strictly enforced.
- E. CLASSROOM MATERIALS** must be present at the start of class. A pencil or a black or blue ink pen and notebook paper is always required. A "bound composition" notebook to be used as a journal and for note taking is also required. Flexible and loose clothing for physical movement. Failure to participate in an activity because your clothing is restrictive will result in detention and a lower grade.
- F. NOTE TAKING** is very important and students should keep accurate and complete notes on all lectures, discussions, films, slides, videos, etc. Tests will include material from these sources.
- G. MISCELLANEOUS**
- Gum chewing is not allowed.
 - Radios and CD players, I-Pods, etc., are not allowed on campus.
 - NO food or drinks or sunflower seeds are allowed in the classroom.
 - CELL PHONES are not to be used anywhere in any of the theatre classrooms and/or the auditorium.
 - FLIP FLOPS or sandals are highly discouraged and should not be worn as they may cause injury to a student during an activity. Please bring closed toed shoes to class.
- H. ACTIVITIES**
This class will include some of the following activities:
- Creating and performing a puppet show for children
 - Slam Poetry readings
 - Improvisation and Pantomime games
 - Voice and Diction exercises
 - Reflective writing
 - Oral and written criticism
 - Reader's Theatre
 - Oral presentations