

THEATRE 1

Syllabus

This is the beginning class for students interested in the Acting Pathway here at RSA. Students will explore on all aspects of the theatre experience; they will learn and/or enhance their acting skills; and they will rehearse and perform scenes and monologues for class and in several Brown Bag public shows. The class culminates with the students performing at the end of the year in a one-act play directed in class by the 4th year theatre seniors!

Pre-requisite: You must be in the Magnet Program to take this class.
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 and quizzes.**
2. **Participation.** Grades on regular and active participation in class activities. You will be docked 10 points per day if the absence is excused or unexcused. Unexcused tardies will result in a 5 point deduction. Good attendance is vital to the acting process as it can affect other student actors and directors in the class. Missed participation points due to excused absences can be made up with extra credit.
3. **Acting Units.**
 - a. **Exercises:** Students will work on developing the voice, diction, movement, focus and concentration, and spontaneity.
 - b. **Audition Techniques:** Before auditions are held for any play to be produced at Roosevelt, students will read the play in class and work on audition scenes.
 - c. **Monologues:** All students will be expected to memorize and perform a monologue taken from a play.
 - d. **Scenes:** Students are required to present one memorized scene each semester with a partner. In lieu of the second scene, some students will be given the opportunity to be directed by fourth-year students in one-act plays. Attendance is vital at this time. If a student must miss class/rehearsal, it is up to him/her to make up the rehearsal time outside of class with his/her partner.
 - e. **Performances:** Students are expected to perform their monologues and scenes before the class, before other classes, and in the evening for family and friends. These are graded subjectively using established rating scales and will focus on memorization, understanding of the script, vocal and physical quality, and characterization.
4. **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.
5. **Technical Hours.** Students are expected to put in four (4) hours of technical work for each semester. This can be after school or on Saturday, and consists of working on costumes, sets, or in some other technical capacity on the major productions. 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.
6. **Technical Units:** Students will study and gain knowledge of the various components associated with the technical aspect of theatre including:
 - a. **Scene Design**
 - b. **Costuming**
 - c. **Makeup**
 - d. **Stage Management**
 - e. **Light Design**

Theatre 1 Syllabus (cont.)

7. **Play Attendance: Students will attend all main-stage plays produced at Roosevelt.** In addition, students must attend one play produced in the community each semester. This can be a college or university, community, professional, or high school production. The student will write a critique using the writing process for each play attended. A more detailed explanation and directions on how to complete this assignment will be given to the student in the next few weeks.
8. **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.

B. LATE WORK will normally not be accepted.

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.

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. Your agenda/planner is always required to write down homework assignments or to be used as your hall pass. 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. Students must wear 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.
- Sunflower seeds are not allowed.
- NO food or drinks are allowed in the classroom.
- CELL PHONES are not to be used anywhere in any of the theatre classrooms and/or the Auditorium.
- DRAMA CALENDARS. Students will be issued calendars so that they can be certain Drama obligations do not conflict with appointments or personal commitments. **If a student must miss a performance due to illness or an emergency, the School of the Arts office should be notified as soon as possible at 253-5323.**