

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Block\_\_\_\_\_

**Course: Advanced Theatre – Acting/Dual-Credit**

**Teacher: Mr. Butcher**

**Email: mbutcher@spsmail.org**

**Textbooks: Cohen, Robert. *Theatre, Brief Version* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2003.  
*Training of the American Actor*  
*Theatre Alive!***

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an advanced study of drama. Students will participate in the areas of acting, interpretation, directing, costuming, publicity, scene design, sound design, light design, and make-up design. Students will be involved in the spring productions of one-acts, readers, Performance Night, 2009 SPS Theatre Festival, State Districts, Improv Night, and the Spring Play Production. Students will be required to attend local performances and submit written critiques. The class is performance/production oriented.

## **MSU COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Theatre 101 aims to answer several questions, the most important of which is, “what is the nature of the theatre experience?” Through this exploration, we will address the reasons for doing theatre, the goals of theatre, the relationship between the performers and the audience, and the complex relationship between theatre and society, both today and throughout history.

We will study drama and theatre arts as art, literature, business, and entertainment, and we will study the creative processes of theatre which move from idea to script to performance. Because theatre, by its very nature, is interactive and interdisciplinary, this course will encourage students to work in collaboration with others and to be imaginative and open-minded in their response to the theatre experience. It encourages considered, critical evaluation of difficult or challenging material and asks students to develop their capacity for interpretation, evaluation, and cultural understanding.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course, the student will:

- ◆ Further his understanding and appreciation of the performing arts through practical experience.
- ◆ Understand the play production process from the first reading to the final curtain.
- ◆ Understand how to operate a profitable and responsible theatre through proper management.
- ◆ Understand the design process and its place in the theatre.
- ◆ Gain a greater knowledge of the actor’s work and his role in production.

## **MSU COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- ◆ Demonstrate knowledge of theatrical processes such as playwriting, directing, acting, and design
- ◆ Understand the broad developments in theatre history and how the relationship between theatre and society has changed throughout that history
- ◆ Interpret and evaluate, both orally and in writing, a live theatrical performance from a variety of perspectives (artistic, cultural, social, etc.)

- ◆ Understand how audience expectations shape the interpretation of a theatrical event
- ◆ Understand the complexities of live theatre, both in terms of the process of collaboration and in terms of the way choices are made by theatre professionals and interpreted by audiences
- ◆ Understand a variety of performance styles and genres of theatre and drama throughout history and across cultures.
- ◆ Collaborate with a group of people to plan and perform a live theatrical performance
- ◆ Understand how drama and theatre reflect and participate in complex individual and societal conversations about political, social, psychological, economic, and moral issues.

## **GOALS OF GENERAL EDUCATION**

This course is part of the General Education Program at Missouri State, and as such, aims to offer what the university's website identifies as "learning that educated persons will use throughout their lives through their many roles and communities." As a result, the course is geared towards not only a broad understanding of how theatre has developed and changed over the course of 2500 years and a deeper understanding of the ever-changing relationship between theatre and society, but towards developing skills that will be useful beyond this classroom: collaboration, imagination, critical interpretation and evaluation, understanding of varied perspectives, and . For further information about the goals of general education at Missouri State, please see the following website:

<http://www.missouristate.edu/ucollege/General%20Education/Goals.htm>

## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

The following tasks and materials will be covered with allowances made for the factor of time:

### **I. Play Production**

- A. Make-up
- B. Costume
- C. Construction
- D. Lighting
- E. Sound
- F. Personnel

### **II. Play Analysis**

- A. Dramatic criticism
- B. Theatre criteria
- C. Plot, structure, theme, and mood
- D. Play attendance
- E. Play reading and presentation

### **III. Character Analysis**

- A. Comic
- B. Tragic
- C. Qualities of character
- D. Artistic selectivity

## **GRADING**

Students are expected to use complete sentences, proper grammar, and correct spelling in every written performance.

The following percentages will be used to determine a student's grade:

A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

### **MSU GRADING**

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

If a student fails to complete a task or fulfill responsibilities satisfactorily and on time, the assigned point values will be lost.

If a student cannot be at an assigned rehearsal or performance event the student will not earn those points regardless of the reason for the absence. If the absence is an excused illness, the student may do alternate assignments to make up the points lost. If the absence is due to another school related activity that is tied to points in another class and the other activity was planned prior to our scheduled rehearsals or performances, the student may do alternate assignments to make up the points lost. If the absence is due to another school related, elective activity, the student may **not** do an alternate assignment.

Quality and effort will be significant contributors for establishing whether a student has fulfilled his/her responsibilities to the fullest. When a student is absent from class for any reason other than a school related activity, he/she will lose 20 points. When a student is off task or being disruptive during class, up to 20 points will be deducted off of their daily participation grade. When a student is late for class, 10 points will be deducted off of their daily participation grade.

### **MID-QUARTER GRADE CHECKS**

**(Note to Parents/guardians - Please ask your student for these.)**

Grade checks will be sent home approximately every third week of each quarter to inform parents/guardians of their student's progress. Students and their parents/guardians should review and sign the grade check. Each student is responsible for returning the signed grade check to class.

Students in Theatre Arts III/IV Acting are required to participate in the **Performance Night – February 19, 2009 SPS Theatre Festival – February 28, State Districts – March 6 (possibly State – in April), Spring Play Rehearsal, April 24, 3-8 PM, Spring Play Performance April 24, Spring Play Rehearsal, May 7, 3-8 PM, Spring Play Performances May 8-9, Spring Play Rehearsal, May 14, 3-8 PM, and Spring Play Performance, May 15-16.** Because of the performances, there will be some required student attendance after school or on weekends. If a student is unable to fulfill his/her responsibilities in these areas, the student is encouraged to drop this course.

Students are required to work a minimum of 20 hours outside of class time on production work each quarter, 10 of which must be done at school. Time can be spent after school working on sets and/or working on individual performances. Additional hours beyond the required 20 hours will count as extra

credit. Additional hours will result in extra-credit (10 points an hour).

Students must attend two Cappies productions and one MSU production during the semester and submit a written critique on the technical and performance aspects of each production that they attend. They must submit each play's program or ticket stub. Only Cappies productions and an MSU play production will meet these requirements. Failure to attend these performances will result in the loss of 200 points each. Possible performances to attend are:

**Cappies (must see two of the following)**

<u>Hamlet</u>	Parkview High School	1/23/2009 - 7:00
<u>Annie Get Your Gun</u>	Parkview High School	4/10/2009 - 7:00
<u>TBA</u>	Hillcrest High School	4/17/2009 - 7:00
<u>Bull In A China Shop</u>	Aurora High School	4/18/2009 - 7:00
<u>TBA</u>	Central High School	5/1/2009 - 7:00

**MSU (must see one of the following)**

<u>Triumph of Love</u>	Missouri State University	February 21–26
<u>Marat/Sade</u>	Missouri State University	April 17–22

Cappies is a program through which high school theater students are trained as critics, attend shows at other schools, write reviews, and publish those reviews in the local newspaper. At the end of the year, the student critics vote for awards, that are presented at a formal Cappies Gala. In July and August, many of the top award honorees from around the U.S. are invited to participate in the Cappies National Theater, where they perform shows at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

**ASSIGNMENTS AND PROJECTS**

I will make the final decision as to what we will be performing, who will be performing what roles, and who will fulfill specific responsibilities. This whole process is competitive as is the real world and the world of theater. Auditions may be done to determine who is best for a part. I will do my best to cast the best people for each position throughout the course. To some extent, everyone will be involved in all productions and the drama festival, but the level and type of involvement will vary. Not everyone will be cast in every production; some will serve as production staff only. If this type of management is upsetting to you, you should look into another class.

**We will produce a full-length play through the weekends of 4/26, 5/9-10 and 5/16-17. Everyone in the class must be at every assigned performance and the final dress rehearsals.**

**The following is the specific breakdown of assignments and point values:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter:**

**1. Participation/Attendance/Rehearsal**

**/860points (Approximately)**

The student will attend class both regularly and punctually, coming prepared with needed materials. The student will actively and willingly participate in lecture/discussions and critique sessions in a positive and productive manner. The student will apply himself/herself during in-class activities, study sessions, rehearsals, etc.

**2. Performance**

**Due: Beginning 1/26 /400 points**

The student will perform two monologues.

**3. Working Script with Analysis**

**Due: 1/26 /400 points**

At the time of performance, the student will turn in his/her paperwork. The following must be included in this order:

- a. Working Script 25 points
- b. Clean Script 25 points
- c. Character Analysis 25 points
- d. Script Worksheet 25 points

**4. Play Attendance/Critique**

**Due: 5/22 /400 points**

The student will attend two Cappies' productions during the semester. Proof of attendance will be evidenced by ticket stub or program. A written critique of the play is also required.

**5. Play Reading/Summary**

**Due: 3/13 /200 points**

The student will read a play of his/her choice from *Theatre Alive!* Or *Drama: A Pocket Anthology* and write a play summary. Please use the form provided.

**6. Twenty Work Hours**

**Due: 3/13 /200 points**

Every student must put in 20 hours outside of class time 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

**7. Performance Night**

**Due: 3/19 /200 points**

Every student must participate and be in attendance at performance night.

**8. Drama Festival**

**Due: 2/28 /200 points**

Every student must participate and be in attendance at the drama festival. Those not cast in a one-act or readers will assume a technical position.

**9. State Districts**

**Due: 3/6 /200 points**

Every student must attend the district event at the designated dates and times.

**10. Resume'**

**Due: 3/13 /100 points**

Every student must have an acting resume'.

**11. Typed report on one acting method**

**Due: 3/13 /100 points**

**12. Typed summary on acting article**

**Due: 3/13 /100 points**

**13. 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Production Duties Form**

**Due: 3/13 /100 points**

**14. Acting Portfolio**

**Due: 3/13 /200 points**

Including all of the assigned paperwork and critiques.

**15. Midterm Exam**

**Due: 3/20 /200 points**

**4<sup>th</sup> Quarter:**

**1. Participation/Attendance/Rehearsal**

**/920 points (Approximately)**

The student will attend class both regularly and punctually, coming prepared with needed materials. The student will actively and willingly participate in lecture/discussions and critique sessions in a positive and productive manner. The student will apply himself/herself during in-class activities, study sessions, rehearsals, etc.

**3. Character Analysis**

**Due: 5/22 /200 points**

At the time of performance, the student will turn in his/her character analysis for each role they assume, or a position description form.

**4. Play Attendance/Critique**

**Due: 5/22 /600 points**

The student will attend two Cappies' productions and one MSU production during the semester. Proof of attendance will be evidenced by ticket stub or program. A written critique of the play is also required.

- 5. Play Reading/Summary** **Due: 5/22** **/200 points**  
The student will read a play of his/her choice from *Theatre Alive!* Or *Drama: A Pocket Anthology* and write a play summary. Please use the form provided.
- 6. Twenty Work Hours** **Due: 5/22** **/200 points**  
Every student must put in 20 hours outside of class time 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.
- 7. Spring Production** **Due: 4/25, 5/8-9, 15-16** **/1400 points**  
Every student must participate and be in attendance at assigned performances
- 8. Resume'** **Due: 5/22** **/100 points**  
Every student must have an acting resume.
- 10. Typed report on additional acting method** **Due: 5/22** **/100 points**
- 11. Typed report on additional article on acting** **Due: 5/22** **/100 points**
- 12. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Production Duties Form** **Due: 5/22** **/100 points**
- 13. Acting Portfolio** **Due: 5/22** **/200 points**  
Everything from 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.
- 14. Final Exam** **/1000 points**  
This will involve a number of different types of questions, including identification of important terms/ideas from the course readings/discussions, essay questions, and short answers.

## **DUAL-ENROLLED CLASSES**

Due to the fact that colleges will not allow extra credit to be added, teachers of dual-enrolled classes will have the option to figure two grades; one for the college and one for the high school transcript.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Homework - The student should expect to have activity homework from this class in addition to production work, and rehearsals.

Final - The final will be a significant part of the student's grade. The final will be at least 10% and no more than 25% of the student's grade. The final will be given during the final exam time at the end of the course in accordance with the school district policy.

Late Work - Late work is not acceptable. We will function as a real production team with real deadlines. In the case of an excused absence, alternative assignments will be given that can be done on the student's own time.

In addition the following stipulations are made and every student is expected to abide by them:

1. Students are expected to treat other students and the teacher with respect.
2. The student is expected to be in his/her seat when the bell rings.
3. Students should not use profanity, obscene language, or obscene gestures.
4. Students are not to make remarks deemed suggestive or crude by the teacher.

5. Make-up Work - Students are responsible for obtaining and completing make-up work. Assignments given to the student prior to their absence must be turned in or completed the DAY THE STUDENT RETURNS TO CLASS.
6. Students may have snacks and beverages that have been purchased from the machines at Kickapoo. However, to maintain this opportunity, students must properly and courteously clean up all trash, soda cans, and wrappers. Students who make messes or who cause classroom disruptions with snacks or beverages (i.e. passing drinks or snacks around to others, loudly crumpling a soda can or tossing trash during class) will lose the privilege to have snacks or beverages during class.
7. Students are not to bring food or drinks into the auditorium.
8. Passes are a disruption to the learning process. A pass must be obtained from the teacher if the student needs to leave the classroom for any reason. The teacher will determine if the reason is valid. The teacher will also determine if a student leaves class when requested by a pass from the office or another teacher. **Students should never use the bathrooms in the locker rooms during this class. A student caught in a locker room while in my class will be referred to an assistant principal.**

### **Electronic Devices**

The rules in all Springfield Public Schools regarding electronic devices read as follows:

*"The possession of laser pointers and other unsafe electronic items are prohibited in the school building. All other electronic devices, such as, but not limited to, cell phones, pagers, PDA's, head phones, IPODs/MP3 players may be in the student's possession as long as they are not disruptive of the educational process or in violation of site use procedures. The school district will not be responsible for lost or stolen items."*

### **Cellular Phones**

Students are not allowed to use or display cell phones during the class time. If they choose to disregard this rule, they will be disciplined according to site scope and sequence.

If a parent has a need to reach a student during the school day, he or she should call the office and we will make every attempt to deliver the message. If parents have a need to call on a student's cell phone to leave a message during the day they are free to do so. However, students cannot check for messages during class time.

If a student is in class or in the hallway during class time and remembers that the cell phone is turned on, the student should approach the teacher and ask permission from the teacher to turn it off. Providing the student has followed the appropriate procedure, the teacher should allow the student to turn off the phone without penalty.

If a student forgets to turn off a cell phone and it rings or vibrates during class, the student should ask the teacher's permission to turn it off. The student may also be subject to the teacher's classroom discipline procedures.

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT**

Academic honesty is expected in all classes at KHS. Cheating will not be tolerated. Violations of academic honesty include, but are not limited to, copying, allowing someone to copy your paper, using cheat sheets, using technology to transmit or receive information with the intent to commit academic dishonesty, not grading correctly, plagiarizing, and self plagiarizing. Plagiarism is the theft of ideas,

writings, or words of another person and passing this information off as one's own. Self plagiarism is completing an original paper for one class assignment, then turning in that same paper to another teacher for another class assignment without permission. Papers may be checked by the teacher using plagiarism detection software. Any student cheating will be subject to academic and/or disciplinary penalties. Consequences may include: reduction in grade on assignment, repeat assignment, no grade (zero) on assignment or others as deemed appropriate. Academic dishonesty will be reported to a school counselor and a parent will be notified.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

1. Truancy - an elective absence which was not approved in advance by parents or by school officials. Work missed because of a truancy may be completed for credit. Truancy is a violation of state statutes as well as school regulations and may result in suspension or other disciplinary action.
2. Suspension - an absence required by school authorities as disciplinary action for inappropriate student behavior. Work missed because of a suspension may be completed for credit. Students will not be excluded from final examinations because of suspensions. Special arrangements may be necessary.
3. School Activities - students represent their schools in a variety of athletic and academic activities. When a student serves as an authorized representative of his/her school, the student is not considered absent. Students who choose to participate in extra-curricular activities resulting in classes missed are to make up all assignments missed.
4. All other absences - all absences, including those approved in advance by parents or school officials, except those for school sponsored activities, will count against a student's days absent. The student should be careful in the use of absences because excessive absences may affect a student's class participation grade.
5. Make-up Work - Students are responsible for obtaining and completing make-up work. Work missed must be made up the **DAY THE STUDENT RETURNS TO CLASS**.
6. Class Participation - the semester grade in this class is greatly determined by class participation. Class participation in Drama II includes such factors as attendance, punctuality, student preparation and contributions to the class learning environment and a cooperative attitude. There are some assignments that cannot be made up as they are performance oriented, or are assigned and completed within one class period of time. Students who miss such assignments will need to investigate possible extra credit to fill in those points missed.

### **TARDY POLICY**

I expect students to be in their seats and prepared to work before the final bell rings. Students should not be out of their seat and talking to other classmates after the final bell rings.

The tardy policy for this class is the same as the school-wide policy. **This policy will be strictly enforced.**

Definition of Tardy: A student is tardy to class if the student is not in the classroom at the conclusion of the tardy bells.

Tardies will be for the duration of the quarter and will start over each quarter in all classes.

Students should find their seats at the conclusion of the tardy bell and remain in their seats during the taking of attendance. If a student is out of his or her assigned seat during attendance or if the student is tardy to class, he or she will lose 10 of their daily participation points.

### **ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES**

**100% Attendance** – If a student has 100% attendance in a class for the entire term, 20% will be added to his/her final exam grade

**96% Attendance** – If a student has 96% attendance in a class for the entire term, 15% will be added to his/her final exam grade

**92% Attendance** – If a student has 92% attendance in a class for the entire term, 10% will be added to his/her final exam grade.

Eighth semester seniors may opt out of any final if they have an “A” in the course prior to the final examinations but may not opt out of the Dual Credit Final.

### **INTERNATIONAL THESPIANS**

International Thespians is an honorary group of students who have exemplified themselves to be worthy of the title of THESPIAN. Students chosen to be Thespians are the leaders of the department and help administer the theatre season. Students gain entrance to this international society through work on productions and by competition in acting festivals. Students must be members of DRAMA CLUB and /or should be enrolled in DRAMA CLUB. After a student has acquired 10 points through 100 hours of excellent work, the student will be invited for initiateship. After the student works through the initiation process, then Thespian status is awarded at the end of the year. Thespians have a variety of social and theatre activities apart from those offered by the Drama Club.

### **KHS THEATRE**

KHS Theatre holds auditions for all mainstage productions open to any student of Kickapoo High School. Membership in Drama Club or enrollment in a drama class is not required for the fall musical. Students who are Drama Club members and/or drama class members will have first priority on any production staff position available throughout the year.

### **SEALS OF EXCELLENCE**

Seals of Excellence are awarded to those Seniors who meet the following criteria:

1. have a 4.0 grade point average in drama
2. have completed at least Drama I and II
3. have participated in at least 3 theatre productions
4. is a member in good standing in Thespians

### **VIDEOS**

It is Board Policy that “instructional materials are to enrich and support the curriculum.”

The policy further states:

“If a video with a rating of PG or PG-13 is used, parents will be notified and asked to provide permission in order for their child to view the video.”

With this in mind I am providing you with a list of videos that I may use in Drama.

I assure you that any of these videos that I use are in support of the course's curriculum.

*The Actor's Studio*

*Camelot*

*Cats*

*The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*

*Cyran De Bergerac*

*Death of a Salesman*

*The Good Doctor*

*Hamlet*

*Into the Woods*

*Jekyll & Hyde*

*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*

*Kiss Me, Kate*

*Man of La Mancha*

*The Man Who Came to Dinner*

*Much Ado About Nothing*

*Oklahoma!*

*Our Town*

*Pippin*

*The Pirates of Penzance*

*Sunday in the Park with George*

*Sweeney Todd (Stage Version)*

*Taming of the Shrew*

*Victor Victoria*

*Whose Line is it Anyway*

**Student's Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

**AGREEMENT OF TERMS OF SYLLABUS**

I have read and understood the policies and principles set forth in the attached syllabus for the **ADVANCED THEATRE – ACTING/DUAL-CREDIT** class. I agree to follow the directions set forth as they guide my participation in this class.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

To better facilitate communication between us, could you please supply me with the following information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

**VIDEO PERMISSION**

I give my child permission to view any of the videos listed in Mr. Butcher's class syllabus.

\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_ No