

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Block \_\_\_\_\_

### **Regular**

**Course: Advanced Theatre – Acting**

**Book: *What We Do: Working in the Theatre***

**Teacher: Mr. Butcher**

**Email: mbutcher@spsmail.org**

### **Dual-Credit**

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

**Book: *The Essential Theatre***

**Teacher: Mr. Butcher**

**Email: mbutcher@spsmail.org**

### **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, Crowder College Theatre Festival, Hillcrest Theatre Festival, State Districts, and the Spring Play Production. The class is performance/production oriented.

**Students taking the class for dual-credit** will be required to attend an MSU performance and submit a written critique and ticket stub for proof of attendance.

### **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 OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course, the student will:

- \*Develop and apply skills to communicate ideas through theatrical performances.
- \*Select and apply theatrical elements to communicate ideas through the creation of theatre.
- \*Develop and apply skills to explain perceptions about and evaluations of theatre and theatrical performance.
- \*Develop and apply skills necessary to make connections between theatre and other non-arts disciplines.
- \*Develop and apply skills necessary to understand cultural diversity and heritage as they relate to theatre.

### **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.

**Grades for the course are weighted and will be determined by assessment in the following areas:**

1. performance projects will equal 50% of a student's overall grade.
2. daily participation will equal 30% of the student's grade. Must be in attendance and participating without being disruptive to earn these points. Quality and effort will be significant contributors for establishing a grade. Students will only earn participation points when they are in class participating in the daily activities.
3. homework assignments including quizzes over the reading will equal 10% of a student's grade.
4. Final Exam (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter) will equal 10% of a student's grade.
5. When a student is absent from my class, other than another school related activity, they will lose their daily participation points for that absence. If a student is tardy, the student will receive a point deduction for the time that they missed by being late.

**\*Extra-Credit cannot be earned in a dual-credit course.**

Quality and effort will be significant contributors for establishing a grade. Students will only earn participation points when they are in class participating in the daily activities.

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

*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.

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 2 points. When a student is off task or being disruptive during class, up to 2 points will be deducted off of their daily participation grade. When a student is late for class, 1 point 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 Nights, Crowder College Theatre Festival, State Districts (possibly State), Spring Play Rehearsals and performances.** Because of the performances, there will be some required student attendance after school or on weekends.

### **Performance Dates:**

January 31 @ 6 PM, State Thespian Events Performances

February 8, During the School day and possibly later Crowder College Theatre Festival @ Neosho

February 21 @ 6 PM, One-Acts and Readers Performances

February 28, During the School day and evening, MSHSAA Districts @ Nixa HS

April 11-13, MSHSAA State, Springfield

May 1 @ , During the School day, matinee spring play matinee performance

May 2 @ 7 PM, Spring Play Performance

May 3 @ 7 PM, Spring Play Performance

May 4 @ 4 PM and 7 PM, Spring Play Performance

**Students are required to work a minimum of 30 hours outside of class time on performances (15**

**hours 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and 15 hours 4<sup>th</sup> quarter) Required performances do not count toward these hours. Students are required to work a minimum of 10 hours outside of class time on tech during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.** When a student reports to work, they should login on the computer. When a student leaves they should logout on the computer. If a student fails to login or logout, the hours that they worked will not count. Additional hours beyond the required 40 total hours will count as extra credit. Additional hours will result in extra-credit (1 point an hour not to exceed an additional 10 points).

### **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 theatre. 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 may be cast in every production; some may only serve as production staff.

**Everyone in the class must be at every assigned performance and the final dress rehearsals. Dates and times are on the website but are subject to change because of weather or other unforeseen circumstances.**

**A student must meet the following requirements to be eligible to perform in a one-act or readers.**

1. Students that have missed more than five classes prior to a performance, **will not** be allowed to perform.

-Absences due to college visits, illnesses, doctor appointments, etc. **will** count against a student's attendance.

-If a student is tardy to class twice, this **will** be equal to one absence.

2. Students cannot miss more than 2 after school rehearsals that were agreed upon by the entire group.

3. If a student is tardy to 2 rehearsals by less than 10 minutes it will equal one absence.

4. If a student is tardy to a rehearsal by more than 10 minutes it will equal one absence.

5. Any student that receives a disciplinary referral prior to a performance will not be allowed to perform.

6.. Students will be supportive of one another at all times or they will not be allowed to perform.

\*If any student fails to meet any of these guidelines, they will not be allowed to perform regardless of when the performance takes place.

**A student must meet the following requirements to be eligible to perform in the spring play.**

1. Students that have missed more than five classes in either 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> quarter due to any reason outside of school related activities, **will not** be allowed to perform.

-Absences due to college visits, illnesses, doctor appointments, etc. **will** count against a student's

attendance.

-If a student is tardy to class twice, this **will** be equal to one absence.

2. Students must complete a full run-through, after school without notes or prompting on stage the week of April 22 in order to perform.
3. Students must attend an additional full run-through rehearsal as an observer in the audience or the student will not be allowed to perform.
4. When rehearsals begin for the play, students will be required to attend a minimum of 2 hours of after school rehearsal a week in order to perform.
5. Students will be required to have 6 hours of after school tech by April 18 in order to perform.
6. Students must have proven that they knew their blocking in order to perform.
7. Students must be in attendance for all other students' performances in order to perform. If a student misses a performance due to another school related activity, this will not count against a student.
8. The cast for the school matinee will not be announced until a day before the performance.
9. Any student that receives a disciplinary referral during 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> quarter will not be allowed to perform.
10. Students will be supportive of one another at all times or they will not be allowed to perform.

\*If any student fails to meet any of these guidelines, they will not be allowed to perform regardless of when the performance takes place or whether friends and family have already purchased tickets. Ticket sales are final, and refunds will not be given for any reason.

### **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 exam will be 10% 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.
9. Personal Learning Time occurs once a week in this class. It is my responsibility as the teacher to ensure that every student has the opportunity during this time to work quietly and independently on what they need to do. If a student needs to go to another teacher during PLT, the student should consult with the teacher in advance and acquire a pass for PLT.

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 half of their daily participation points (10 points).

### **ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES**

**100% Attendance** – If a student has 100% attendance in a class for the entire term, 10% will be added to his/her final exam grade

**95-99% Attendance** – If a student has 95-99% attendance in a class for the entire term, 5% will be added to his/her final exam grade

Eighth semester seniors may opt out of any final if they have an “A” or “A-“ in the course prior to the final examinations.

### **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)*

*Cyrano De Bergerac*

*Into the Woods*

*Jekyll & Hyde*

*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*

*Whose Line is it Anyway*

*Taming of the Shrew*

*Sweeney Todd (Stage Version)*

*The Pirates of Penzance*

*The Phantom of the Opera*

*Pippin*

*Oklahoma!*

*Kiss Me, Kate*

**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 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