
DRAMA SYLLABUS

Instructor: Mr. Flowers

Available: After school or by
appointment (an appointment is
highly recommended)

Room 495

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www.shadowmountaindrama.com

CLASSROOM DYNAMICS:

This is a theatre arts class, based in *creation*, *performance*, and *critique*. The artistic atmosphere needed for theatre can only be created with the following guidelines:

Course fee: \$25, payable to SMHS bookstore

Student must agree to:

- 1) *Respect the other students, the instructor, and the work environment.*
- 2) *Agree that failure is a necessary part of artistic creation and learn from those failures.*
- 3) *Understand that theatre demands hard work, flexibility, a positive attitude, and patience.*
- 4) *Be willing to be creative and have fun!*

The instructor agrees to:

- 1) *Respect the students and their learning process.*
- 2) *Communicate clearly what is expected, and clear up confusion when necessary.*
- 3) *Be as available as possible for extra help.*
- 4) *Provide a positive environment where the student can create and grow artistically.*

CLASSROOM RULES:

- 1) All rules found in the S.M.H.S. Student Planner shall be enforced in this class, including but not limited to dress code, attendance/tardy policy, academic misconduct, electronic devices rules, etc. Please see the Student Planner for more information.
- 2) Each student is expected to come to class every day ready to work.
- 3) Each student is expected to respect the rights of all others in the classroom.
- 4) THERE IS TO BE NO FOOD, DRINK, OR ELECTRONICS OF ANY KIND THIS ROOM!
- 5) **Be on time.** Class begins promptly as the bell rings. Any student arriving late without a pass will be marked tardy if within 10 minutes of the bell, or marked absent if more than 10 minutes late. School policy regarding nonattendance and tardiness will be enforced.
- 6) **Be prepared.** All homework is to be turned in the on the due date. THIS INCLUDES MEMORIZATION FOR SCENE WORK!!!
- 7) **Be responsible.** You must take responsibility for your grade and your success in this class. Understand that every choice you make will affect your experience as a student of theatre. Choose to take responsibility for your learning and make the most of your time in this class!
- 8) **Each student is expected to behave in accordance with socially accepted norms of decent and well-mannered behavior.**

GRADING POLICY:

Students will be graded on the following:

- 1) **Daily participation - 50% of final grade.** A large part of your experience in this class depends on your daily participation, attitude, preparation, and work ethic. Theatre demands that you be involved. Daily points are earned by bringing your script, pencil, and notebook to class every day, participating in all activities, keeping a positive and helpful attitude, etc. You cannot makeup unexcused daily participation points.
- 2) **Performances. - 30% of final grade.** Performances in the theatre arts are equivalent to tests in other courses. You cannot miss performances and pass this course.
- 3) **Written work and quizzes. - 20% of final grade.** This includes play and character analysis, performance reports, daily journals, and critiques.

GRADING SCALE:

Grades are given on a 100 point scale. I do not round up grades.

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

0 points: Incomplete or missing assignment

The semester breakdown for grades is as follows:

- 40% - 1st half of the semester
- 40% - 2nd half of the semester
- 20% - Final exam/performance

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- 1) Shadow Mountain Student Planner
- 2) Three ring binder with dividers and notebook paper
- 3) Pencils (we do not use pens in the theatre - pencils only!)

PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENT:

The portfolio is a collection of each student's work in theatre. It will consist of the following:

- 1) 3 ring binder
- 2) 3 section dividers
- 3) Lined paper

The three sections of the portfolio are as follows:

- 1) Notes and classroom materials
- 2) Journals
- 3) Major assignments and reflections, including monologues, scenes, character/play analysis, and performance reports.

JOURNAL REQUIREMENT:

Each student is expected to keep a journal as a part of the portfolio. The journal should document the student's journal of discovery about the discipline and art of theatre. The journal will be used in part of the course assessment.

This is to be a daily journal for the students to report on their experiences in the classroom and on their theatrical experiences. The goal is to have students become strong, reflexive thinkers about their experiences as well as exercise meta-cognition about themselves and how those experiences affect them. Students should also increase their awareness of the global environment.

Students will examine three areas of growth in their journal: skills, group dynamics, and self-actualization.

SKILLS: Acquiring and developing techniques used in theatre, such as concentration, diction, stage presence, etc.

GROUP DYNAMICS: Collaboration, cooperation, problem solving, and organization with a team or ensemble.

SELF-ACTUALIZATION: Self-discipline, personal responsibility, self-esteem, valuing creativity in self and others, learning about thinking, etc.

The journal will provide data for a reflective essay that will be a part of the final exam. Each student will consider the information in the journal, organize it, and write a five-paragraph essay that examines all the aspects of learning during the course of the theatre class.

PERFORMANCE REPORTS

Each student must attend performances and write reflective reports on the fall musical at Shadow Mountain.

The performance report must be at least 1 and ½ pages, single-spaced, typed using standard font (10 to 12 point) with standard margins. Each student will use his/her understanding of theatrical elements to create a standard to evaluate the production.

The report may include the following:

- 1) A brief (no longer than ½ page) plot summary.
- 2) A description of the acting and how the characterizations helped to tell the story. Use *specific examples* from the show.
- 3) A description of the scenery, costumes, lighting, and sound and how these elements helped to tell the story.
- 4) A critique of the overall quality or success of the production.

The paper should include *specific examples from the production* to support any opinions about the work. Use your program as a reference for specific actor names, character names, scene locations, etc.

You may also share what you gained in terms of understanding of the craft of acting from each production.

A ticket stub or program, signed by the director, must be attached to the report.

If you are participating in the show as an actor or crew member, the performance report should be a detailed reflection of the journey you took in the show and what you learned about the craft of acting, the nature of collaborative work, world point-of-view, etc. from your participation in the show.

ATTENDING SMHS PERFORMANCES:

Tickets for the productions are \$5 for students. If you cannot purchase a ticket, alternative arrangements can be made if you speak with Mr. Flowers in advance.

Performance dates are as follows:

FALL MUSICAL: *Road Dahl's Willy Wonka* - November 7, 8, 9 - 7 PM
SPRING PLAY: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* - April 23, 24, 25 - 7 PM

All performances are in the Shadow Mountain Auditorium.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

School policy regarding nonattendance and tardiness shall be strictly enforced. Since much of this class involves work with your fellow classmates, **attendance for this class is particularly vital**. Per the Shadow Mountain rules, as stated in the Student Planner: **For a truant absence, the student is not eligible to receive credit for the work that is missed**. In other words, *you cannot makeup unexcused daily participation points*.

MAKEUP WORK/LATE POLICY:

The expectation is that all students will complete and turn in work on time.

Makeup Work: Make up work is defined as any assignments or tests students need to complete due to an **excused** absence. Students will be allowed the same amount of days equal to the number of excused absent days to make up assignments for full credit.

Late Work: Late work is defined as any work completed and turned in after a designated due date. Work becomes late when an absence is unexcused, (i.e. truancy) or when a student turns in assignments after the equal number of days allowed for excused absences. Late work will be accepted up to the day prior to the last day of the grade-in progress period (before mid-semester exams and final exams). Students will receive a grade equal to 50% of the grade the student would have originally earned if the assignment was turned in on the actual due date.

Please note that there is a difference between a late assignment and a missed performance. A missed performance is a missed opportunity that cannot be recreated or made

up. *If the performance is missed due to legitimate, verifiable reasons and the instructor is notified in advance, the instructor will provide an alternate activity to make up the lost points at a maximum of 50% of the points for the missed performance.* Due to the fact that your fellow students are depending on your participation for the performance, prior notification of an absence from a performance must occur for make-up work to be granted.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- A video/photo release is requested of all Theatre Arts students and must be signed by both the student and the parent/guardian. Performances are often taped for assessment purposes. In addition, parts of performances, class work, designs, etc. may be used as promotional material for the Theatre Arts program. No photo or video will ever be used for inappropriate reasons other than positive endorsement of the student's hard work and dedication.
- Students and parents/guardians are also encouraged to sign the video permission slip. Enrichment of class concepts may occur through use of videos or films that demonstrate important acting, design, directing, or playwriting concepts. All videos will be acceptable for classroom use and be rated no higher than PG-13.
- There is a \$25 class fee, per year, for all students participating in the SMHS Drama program. The class fee helps to pay for scripts, music, performance rights, and other costs outside of the normal school supplies. All fees need to be paid to the bookstore at the beginning of the year.
- Please feel free to contact Mr. Flowers with any concerns or questions! Communication is a vital part of success in any endeavor, and I believe it is critical for the success of an arts program.
- I will attempt to return all phone calls and e-mails as quickly as possible. Please be aware, however, that my schedule is often very busy between school, rehearsals, club meetings, etc. I will attempt to return all communication within 24 hours (or the next school day if it is the weekend).

Drama Contact Information and Emergency Form

The following form must be filled out in its entirety and signed.

Student: _____
 Birthday: _____ Sex: _____ Grade: _____
 Home Address: _____ City: _____
 Zip: _____ Student Cell Phone: _____
 Parent(s) Name: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____
 If not living with parents, name of guardian: _____
 Relationship to guardian?: _____

Medical Information

If parent cannot be contacted in an emergency, please contact:

Name: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____
 Physician: _____ Physician's Phone: _____
 Preferred Hospital: _____
 Known Allergies or Medical Alerts: _____

Name: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____
 Physician: _____ Physician's Phone: _____
 Preferred Hospital: _____
 Known Allergies or Medical Alerts: _____

*I hereby give consent for SMHS staff and faculty to use their judgment
 in securing medical aid in emergencies.*

Signature of parent or guardian: _____

Release of Name and/or Image

*I give permission for my/our son's/daughter's name and image to appear in publicity for the
 SMHS Theatre Program such as the newspaper, school website, and other publications.
 I/we also agree to allow such photographs to be captioned from time to time
 with my/our son's/daughter's complete name.*

Signature of parent or guardian: _____

Video and Film Release

I give permission for my student to view PG and PG-13 rated video/films
 when educationally appropriate.

Signature of parent or guardian: _____

Rehearsal Agreement

*I understand that theatre is a collaborative art that requires my active participation for
 success and artistic growth. It is my responsibility to manage my time wisely.
 I understand that if I have an excused absence from a scheduled final performance (test),
 I will be given a make-up assignment.
 I understand that if I have an unexcused absence from a scheduled final performance,
 I will receive a zero for that final performance.*

Signature of student: _____

Syllabus and Conduct Agreement

*I have read and understand all the school rules contained in the
 this syllabus and Shadow Mountain Student Handbook.*

Signature of parent or guardian: _____

Signature of student: _____