

Course Name: Beginning Theatre

Teacher Name: Mr. Kyle Spitler

Teacher Contact Information:

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Prep Time: After School By

Appointment

Room Number: D102

Course fee: \$30

Course Materials:

- Sharpened pencil with eraser
- Lined paper
- Folder
- Planner (calendar)
- Composition Notebook

Course Description

- The purpose of this course is for students to understand the works of drama and theater. This is not just a class where students will get in front of their peers and recite from a play but rather learn how to understand a character by identifying and portray emotion. It is my belief that Theatre/Drama is more than a class of playing games and acting, but a class of critical thought. Students will be given the tools to dissect a problem and create a solution.

Writing

- Writing exercises and assignments are a tremendous part of the class grade, so take them seriously. Students will need to use critical thinking in order to write the papers in this class. Students will have to take a question and instead of finding the answer in a book or the text, the student must decipher it for themselves and express their thoughts into words.
- Length of papers and their point of view depend on the importance of the exercise. The complexity of the essay will have a direct impact on the length of a particular writing assignment. Please read each assignment thoroughly for an overview of the writing format students are expected to follow, as well as my personal expectations.
- I will use a grading rubric. Students will have opportunities to revise their essays and resubmit it for a higher grade. You will not be given time in class. Although grades may be raised, it can also be lowered if the work given is worse than the original paper. Full points cannot be achieved after the first submission.
- Journals will be required. Some days I will have a 5 min journal assignment on the board for you to do, and other days it will be considered homework. Journaling will be a huge factor in your participation grade. Journals are meant to challenge your mind by thinking outside of the box. These entries are your thoughts and opinions, which means I will grade them on your effort not the content. These are not meant to stress you, but to remind your brain of what you have experienced. Buying a cheap journal would be suggested.

Attendance/Late Work Policy:

- Attendance is mandatory in theater. A lot of our time will be spent on rehearsals and performances. Students must be present for rehearsals in order for their graded performances to be done well. Missing days will not only lower the grade for the student but their partners as well. During the times when working with groups, students who are absent either excused or unexcused will not receive participation points for that day. In the cases of an excused absence students will be able to do a short alternate assignment to make up the points.
- Students MUST be present for their performances. Students will know a head of time when they are performing and must make arrangements to be in class. Students who do not show up for their performance that is an excused absence, (see student handbook for details on what is an excused and an unexcused absence. Emergency circumstances will be discussed in person) will lose 15% automatically and will have only one chance to make it up the next day they return. If student does not make it up that day no points will be given and no make-up work will be allowed. Unexcused absents will not be giving any chance to make up a performance.
- As per QCHS school policy, if a student absent is excused, the student will have one day plus the number of days absent to complete missed work or quizzes. It is important that missed work is made up quickly so that students can continue developing their skills without getting behind the rest of the class. Late work / quizzes, or work related to an unexcused absence, will only be accepted for half credit and only until the end of the unit.

Homework

- Other than your writing assignments, traditional homework in this class is rare. You will decide how much homework is given; if you remain on task, actively participate, and stay up-to-date with your class assignments you may hardly receive any homework at all. If, however, only a few of you are participating in class, then the class will receive more homework.

Classroom Management Plan

- We will be following the “Student Expectation Plan” for QCHS. Students who are absent more than 10 times per semester will be placed on audit status and may not receive credit for the course. Students caught cheating will receive an automatic 0% for that grade.

Movie/Film Policy:

- Parental consent forms must be completed for each movie/film that students view in class. District policy states that movies and videos with ratings other than for general audiences of all ages cannot be shown without parental consent. Parents have the right to request that their child not view any movie or video, regardless of its rating or the purpose for which it is to be shown. If a student does not have permission to watch a movie/film, the student will be given an alternative assignment.
- A movie list and parent signature will be given next week

Classroom Conduct

- Expectations for student behavior in class are simple: use class time wisely; be respectful of your classmates and others in the room; respect school property; do not distract others; be on time; and come prepared.
- Sleeping in class is not permitted. Parents will be contacted if students are sleeping (or appear to be sleeping) for the first offence. After that, measures will be taken based on QCHS school policy.
- Cell phones that are seen or heard in the classroom will be taken from the student, and will then be collected at the start of each class for the remainder of the semester. Students who do not hand in their cell phone when required will find it submitted to the front office for a parent pick-up. This will be strictly enforced. There will be times when cells can be used but only when given permission.
- It is the responsibility of the student to keep track of when assignments are due and when presentations are to be given. I will use Echalk to post assignments however do not always depend on it being there. I will not accept the excuse that you did not know about an assignment because it was not on Echalk. When I announce a due date... WRITE IT DOWN!
- The room must be clean and orderly before students are allowed to leave.
- It is the student's responsibility to get make-up assignments after an absence. If you know you will be absent ahead of time, check before your departure and after your return to make sure you have all materials. Tests and quizzes missed due to absences will be made up on your time, not during class. I will not remind you that you need to do an assignment, I will just give you a zero.

Plagiarism

- Plagiarism is unethical and a serious offense. Plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Students will receive a lecture and hand-out on what plagiarism is and how to avoid it. It is the responsibility of the student to know the information for future reference. Students caught plagiarizing on a quiz, test, speech or presentation will receive an automatic zero and a referral.
- Unless an assignment is specifically designated as a joint assignment (including homework), ANY work copied from any source without giving that source the proper credit will result in a zero on the assignment.
- Cases of plagiarism are not debatable. If you plagiarize, intentionally or unintentionally, you will receive no credit for the assignment in question. A handout on Academic Integrity will be distributed. All students and their parent/guardian will sign and return them by the end of the first week. This ensures all parties know and understand the rules of plagiarism to avoid possible academic punishment and potentially failing the course (yes, it has happened, and no, I'm not kidding)

Course Objectives and Goals:

| Major Topics of Study | Study Skills, Life Skills, And Critical Thinking |
|--|---|
| 1. Monologue and Scene Study | 1. Self- Confidence and Public Speaking Skills |
| 2. Audition Techniques | 2. Time Management, Organization and Planning |
| 3. Theatre History | 3. Collaboration and Cooperation |
| 4. Play Reading | 4. Respect, Kindness, Sympathy, Empathy and Honesty |
| 5. Playwriting | 5. Independence and Taking Risks |
| 6. Performance and Rehearsal Etiquette | 6. Listening and Observing |
| | 7. Inventing and Creating |
| | 8. Reading and Understanding |
| | 9. Evaluating and Expressing emotions |
| | 10. Memorizing and predicting |

Grading

Grading System:

A + 100-98

A 97-94

A- 93-90

B+ 89-87

B 86-84

B- 83-80

C+ 79-77

C 76-74

C- 73-70

D+ 69-67

D 66-64

D- 63-60

F 59 or below

Grade Breakdown:

20% Daily Participation

20% Assignments and/or Quizzes

40% Performances/Projects and/or Tests

20% Final Exam

Personal Note to Parents

- It is important in a child's education that their parents get involved, along with their extra-curricular activities. Here at Queen Creek High School we have plenty of opportunities for you to get involved. The Theater Department has a Booster Club that supports our program from fundraising, buying props, costumes, helping to build sets and much more. We are in need of more parent volunteers this year as it will be our biggest and busiest year yet. We need all help whether it is for a day or the entire year. If you are interested in helping the Performing Arts to grow and become a staple in the community, please check the areas below that interest you. Even if it is not with the theater program please do your best to support your child's school in some way or another. The more parents get involved with their children's education, the better their education gets.

Please sign below along with a parent or guardian. By signing below you are acknowledging that you have read the rules and procedures within the syllabus and agree to adhere to them. I look forward to working with you and having a great year!

Student Name (Please Print) _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Volunteer

Please check one or more category you would like to volunteer for:

Set Production _____ Costuming _____

Fundraising _____ Ticket Booth/Sales _____

Concession Stand _____ Sound/Lights _____

Props/Set design _____ Booster Board Member _____

Other (please detail) _____ ALL _____

EMAIL _____

Statement of Academic Integrity

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is the practice of the Florence Unified School District to facilitate honesty and integrity among the student body. Students must work to be successful in the classroom with each student's success based upon his/her own merit. To this end, academic misconduct of any kind is unacceptable. Examples which violate academic integrity are:

- Cheating – giving, using, or attempting to see unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids, or other devices in any academic exercise including unauthorized communication of information.
- Fabrication and Falsification – unauthorized alteration or intervention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
- Plagiarism – presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgement of the source). This includes the use of internet sources. The sole exception to the requirement of acknowledging sources is when the ideas or information is common knowledge.
- Facilitating Academic Misconduct – giving or attempting to help another commit an act of academic misconduct.
- Tampering with Materials, Grades, or Records – interfering with, altering, or attempting to alter school records, grades, or other documents without authorization from an appropriate school official for the purpose of changing, falsifying, or removing the original information found in such records.

In Mr. Spitler's classroom, **any student who violates the academic integrity policy set forth by Queen Creek High School and District will receive a grade of zero for the assignment in which the policy is violated with no opportunity to make up the assignment.** This penalty is in addition to any consequence handed down by the administration of Queen Creek.

My signature below indicates that I have read and understand the policies on Academic Integrity and agree to abide by them. I also understand the consequences for violations of the policy on Academic Integrity in Mr. Spitler's class.

Student Name (Please Print) _____

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____
