



WHS -Theatre I

Grade Levels: 9-12 **Graduation Credit:** Visual & Performing Arts (General electives)

CSU/UC Approved: Visual & Performing Arts (Meets the f requirement)

Description:

This Visual and Performing Arts course introduces and provides experience in all aspects of theatre arts. Students study basic principles of acting including character analysis, textual interpretation, voice, movement, collaboration, improvisation, and critical analysis of performance. Additionally, students gain a working knowledge of theatre history and the multiple forms of theatrical performance, as well as the technical aspects of theater and theatrical design. Special emphasis is placed on theatrical vocabulary and codes of conduct, as well as the creation, production, direction of monologues and scenes.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Demonstrate self-confidence through acquired performance skills and provide the student the opportunity to develop as a unified whole; emotionally, intellectually, and physically.
2. Create truth in imaginary circumstances
3. Understand and appreciate the performing arts through newly discovered knowledge
4. Discuss the meaning of theatre and its place in contemporary American Society
5. Demonstrate the knowledge of the play production process, including some technical theatre applications
6. Understand, analyze, and apply knowledge of theatrical components to a theatre arts production and demonstrate the ability to critique the work
7. Develop advanced levels regarding stage presence, vocal projection, stage movement, diction, facial expressions, gestures, characterization, and improvisation skills
8. Obtain skills needed in theatrical production: directing, producing, stage management, house management, makeup design, Properties / Props, etc.
9. Develop theatre arts vocabulary in relation to performing, theatre historical movements and technical aspects
10. Students to be a contributing part of the performance by acting in a class performance, by working behind the scenes, and by being a part of a team and a production to gain actual experience for real life application.

Grading:

All grading will be done on a point system. The overall grade will be the percentage of points accrued divided by points possible. Students who earn the following percent of the total points will earn the listed letter grade.

90-100% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

59% and below = F

Please note, due to the nature of this class, grading is highly subjective, so your best work is required.

Late work for written assignments only: 10% will be deducted for each day it is late.

MANDATORY ASSIGNMENTS:

1. **Daily Participation** – Students can earn up to 10 participation points each day they attend class and participate in the daily activities, which can include exercises, improvisation, warm-ups, and various performance related activities. **This class is based on attendance/punctuality and participation.** If a student is absent, they will not receive participation points for that day. If a student has an **excused absence**, they will be able to make up their points by doing an alternative assignment.

Alternative assignments may be found on the website, titled “Alternative Assignments”. Each assignment must have the date of absence on it. You will be given one day for each absence to turn in an alternative assignment. A student having six (6) unexcused tardies or trancies in any one class per year, may be dropped from the course and assigned a grade of “F” (Westlake High’s Handbook and Discipline Policy).

2. **Classwork and Group work/projects** – Assignments will be given in class in order to apply principles and incorporate concepts. Some assignments will require group coherence and member attendance is crucial for success.
3. **Written Journal Assignments** – These are both in class activities and can also be assigned as homework.
4. **Performance**- Students are required to be a part of the class production (this year it is the Winter Show in February)
5. **Performance / Play Critiques** – You are required to attend one theatre performance per semester, either at WHS or an outside organization and complete a critique on the performance. The critique will be a minimum of 2 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt. font. **You will need to include a ticket stub with the critique.** Please check with me before viewing an outside performance, to make sure it is acceptable for class. See Google Classroom for Performance Critique / Report Format.
6. **Use Turnitin.com**- use to turn in written essays or Performance reports for Theatre I Class.
7. **Service Hours** – 6 hours of service on WHS Theatre Productions or for any approved theatre service activity is required. Each hour of service counts as 50 points. The maximum number of points that can be earned is 300 points. You may receive service hours through participating in the Fall or Spring main stage show, through participating in DTASC, through participating in Behind the Scenes jobs, through participating in set

construction and painting, through participating Chapman Shakespeare Festival, or any other theatre production / performance related activity approved by Mrs. Burke.

8. Written Skills Tests and Quizzes – Covering theatre performance and theatre production, and some technical theatre vocabulary, concepts, and class material.

9. Midterm and Final Performances – One monologue or scene is to be performed for the midterm and a scene or one act is to be performed for the final.

SUPPLIES (these need to be brought to class everyday unless otherwise instructed):

- ✓ Spiral bound notebook for journal/notes
- ✓ 3 Highlighter (Yellow, Pink, & Green)
- ✓ 2 Pencils with erasers
- ✓ Any scenes, monologues, plays, or small texts being used in class

CLASS RULES:

Be Punctual. I expect you to be in your seats when I take attendance. Time is precious and being early is on time. Professionalism is expected in this performing arts class elective.

Be Prepared. Please bring appropriate supplies to class, but leave you electronic devices turned off and put away. If I hear or see a student talking on a cell phone or listening to an IPOD, I will take it away. Refer to the student handbook for rules and regulation on cell phone usage.

Be Responsible. In the drama classroom and in the theatre there is absolutely no gum, food, candy, and drinks allowed. Water bottles are appropriate.

Be Respectful. Time does not dismiss you. I will be the only person to dismiss you from class. There might be times when we have a guest speaker, a performance, and class might run over a few minutes. Respect all individuals entering the classroom, whether that is a substitute, a guest speaker, or myself. Respect the space, both the classroom and the Theatre. The Theatre specifically is a shared facility that we need to take care of. It is a privilege to have and you are expected to take care of it. Do not use costumes, props, or touch equipment without asking my permission.

Be Reliable and Creative. Don't be afraid to experiment, and don't be afraid to try something new. This is your class to play.

Be Safe and Secure. Be aware of your surroundings and pay attention in class when moving or doing an activity.

Be Supportive and Aware. This can be a difficult class for some individuals and some of you might be shy. Stick to constructive criticism when critiquing individual's work and give each other the respect you all deserve. Our space needs to feel safe. Refrain from using language that hurts or offends others. Do not give advice or suggest to other actors how to act, or to play a scene, or to come up with ideas. (This is the place for all individuals to have to struggle, overcome obstacles –even their own biases— and feel successful.)

Read Class Guidelines and Expectations;
Sign and Return this portion of the Class Guidelines and
Procedures as your agreement and acknowledgement of class
Expectations and Policies by Sep. 15, 2017.

Students Name: _____
(Please Print)

Student's Signature: _____

Parent's Name: _____
(Please Print)

Parent's Signature: _____

Email: _____



WHS Theatre Arts Donation Commitment Form 2017-2018

Since its inception, the Conejo Valley Unified School District and Westlake High School have strived to offer the most comprehensive array of enrichment programs, athletics and extracurricular activities, particularly those deemed the most valuable by our community. The WHS Theatre Arts Program is pleased to offer a comprehensive and enriching educational experience to every participating student. State law requires us to provide a public education free of charge. Subject to certain exceptions, the right to a free public education means we cannot require students or their families to purchase materials, supplies, equipment or uniforms for any school activity, to pay security deposits for access, participation, materials, or equipment, or to make donations to a class, activity or program.

However, the WHS Theatre Arts Program incurs expenses of which are not covered by CVUSD. To pay for these important components of our program, we rely heavily on donations from parents and others, as well as various fundraising events. These donations directly benefit our students and make possible all of our planned activities and experiences — without this financial and logistical support from participating families we simply cannot maintain the quality program we want to continue to provide for our students. If we are unable to meet our fundraising goals, through both donations and fundraising events, it will be necessary to forego some of those activities and experiences.

Based on our planned activities and the projected costs of those activities, we are asking for a **voluntary donation from each family of \$150**. This requested donation is calculated by looking at the budgeted costs of the Program after subtracting out our receipts from the box office. Needless to say, we happily accept donations in the excess of the requested amount!

Please make any checks payable to the WHS Drama Department and put into a sealed envelope. Your student can bring the check directly to the Student Store or place it in the large manila envelope in Mrs. Burke's classroom. Your generous contribution will help to support this program. Thank you.

