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## Theatre Arts 1 Course Syllabus

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**Instructor:** Catherine Clay

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**Room:** 1510

### Course Content-

In this course students will exhibit the ability to make artistic judgments through interpretation, invention, characterization and improvisation. They will use vocabulary, equipment, and technology in the fine arts discipline, as well as demonstrate the value of performance, creativity and support of the fine arts.

### Text-

*Basic Drama Projects*, classroom textbook

*The Stage and the School*, classroom textbook

**Resources:** Books, Teachers, Parents, Friends, the Internet, the Library... your Mind, and Creativity. Use them!

**About the Teacher-** I was born in California and raised in Texas. I received a bachelor's degree in Theatre and Psychology, and a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction- Secondary Education, both from the University of Houston. In addition to Theatre Arts, I hold teacher certifications in Psychology, English as a Second Language, and School Counseling. I enjoy acting, directing, and producing theatre, travelling, gardening, and spending time with my family.

### Grading

Exams/Prepared performances	40%
Daily work/Class participation/Rehearsals	40%
Critical response/ Theatre etiquette	20%

## **Attendance and Participation**

Attendance will be taken daily and is mandatory. I will take at least two grades per week, so it is necessary to participate and submit assignments.

## **Unit Overviews**

### **Unit 1: Etiquette and Pantomime:**

In this unit, students will acclimate themselves with the stage and performance. As audience members: Students will be able to perform the tasks required of an engaged, respectful audience. They will know how to dress appropriately for a performance, they will be able to adhere to standards of punctuality, they will demonstrate proper behavior while in attendance (i.e., not talking, sleeping, or texting during a performance) and they will be able to accurately and respectfully offer thoughtful verbal and written observations about what they have seen onstage.

### **Unit 2: Warm-ups and Improvisation:**

In this unit, students will learn to safely warm up their voice and bodies in order to express themselves onstage. They will learn about the art of pantomime, including exercises that teach them to access a range of emotional states and portray different characters onstage.

### **Unit 3: Rehearsal and Theatrical Conventions**

In this unit, students will develop a solid understanding of the concept of rehearsal by writing and rehearsing a scene using the skills they learned in the previous unit. They will also explore theatrical conventions and vocabulary.

### **Unit 4: Introduction to Technical Theatre**

In this unit, students will receive instruction on each of the main branches of technical theatre: setting, lights, sound, properties, and costumes. Students will explore the process of stagecraft from design to production, while deepening their understanding of technical theatre.

### **Unit 5: Introduction to Theatre History**

In this unit, students will explore how theatre has evolved throughout history and among cultures. This is a broad survey of theatre history, from Greek and Roman to Shakespeare to modern playwrights.

### **Unit 6: Interdependence of Theatrical Elements**

In this unit, students will work as a company to produce a short theatrical work, demonstrating knowledge of all areas of theatre arts. The play they produce is left to the teacher's discretion; some classes may be at a higher level than others. They will demonstrate knowledge of all areas of theatre production, from conception to analysis to design to rehearsal to performance. Students will reflect on their experience producing a play and relate their experience to career and vocational opportunities in the theatre arts.