Green Hope High School

Theatre Arts II

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**Mr. Jamie Gorski, Instructor**

**Course Description**

Welcome to theatre arts II! The purpose of this course is to further the student’s studies of the theater arts with a greater emphasis on classical theater, contemporary theatre, and performance. Students will continue a survey of dramatic analysis by reading and studying a wider range of plays, some contemporary and some classical. Students will also receive a more in depth study of theatre history and the impact the theatre arts has had on the modern world. Students will also begin to work with plays that contain more mature content, not so much in language but in ideas and concepts. The content of these plays will stay within school appropriate guidelines for WCPSS. Students will also study in great detail the practice of applying authentic and organic emotion to characters portrayed on stage. Finally, students will begin to explore other types of theatre, such as silhouette scenes, performance art, and more.

**Grading**

***A personal note from the instructor****:*

*Success in this course is based on the guidelines listed here, but what I believe is most important for Theater Arts II is that students take risks in their work and have a willingness to try all activities and exercises. Growing as an actor not only requires confidence and experience, but also courage and humility. While many practical skills and theatrical concepts will be learned in this class, there is no substitute for the power and essential quality of emotion; this is an essential ingredient for success in this course.*

**Composition Notebook – 10%**

Students will be expected to keep a composition notebook throughout the entire semester. The notebook will contain class notes, observations, reflections, and more. Composition notebook checks will occur once every three weeks.

**Monologue/Scene Study – 20%**

Students will be learning how to perform monologues and scenes in both a performance setting as well as an audition setting. Throughout the semester, students will perform monologues and scenes from famous plays as well as from original compositions. A rubric will be used to grade the monologues and scenes. It is the expectation of this class that **ALL** monologues and scenes are memorized prior to performance.

**Theatre Showcase – 20%**

Students in Theatre Arts II will perform a showcase in front of an invited audience. The showcase will feature monologues, scenes, and other performance pieces worked on throughout the entire semester. Parents and friends are more than welcome to attend. The event is free. **The date for the showcase will be December 16th, at 5:00 PM.**

**Participation – 20%**

Participation is required daily in Theatre Arts II. Students are expected to participate in all activities throughout the period. Participation is graded daily and in frequency. Grades are earned through instructor observation.

**Tests – 20%**

Students will have some written examinations for this course. Not every unit will have a written exam. Exams will include study guides and will assess information that fulfills the necessary aspects of the theatre arts II curriculum.

**Tutorials – 5%**

All students are required to attend at least two tutorial sessions per quarter. However, if a student is learning less than a B in the course, the instructor has the right to assign more tutorials as a requirement. Tutorials will be a time to remediate any skills that the student needs assistance with or make up work. Tutorials for this class will be held Wednesday and Thursday during the second half of lunch.

**Quizzes – 5%**

Quizzes will be given as needed for each unit of study.

**Final Exam – 20% of Overall Grade**

All students are required to take a final exam at the end of the semester. The final exam will be both a performance assessment as well as a traditional written assessment. The traditional test will assess all covered vocabulary, theatrical terms, concepts, and additional details covered throughout the course. The exemption policy for seniors at GHHS will be honored for this examination.

**Course Rules & Expectations**

* Be on time.
* Be ready to act!
* Be respectful to all rehearsal spaces, both the classroom and the theater.
* Please have all materials ready for class each day.
* Be willing to take risks in your work! Remember—confidence and experience is important, but courage and humility is essential.
* Be supportive and encouraging for all your classmates. You all come to this class with a wide range of theatrical experiences, so it is important to keep that in mind when working with people or watching performances.
* I expect you to work hard on your craft. You will be assessed on your growth throughout the semester. Regardless of background or prior theatrical experiences, everyone can grow in the theater arts!
* I expect you to be creative, imaginative, and original in your practices.
* Be respectful to the instructor and your classmates.
* Be kind.

**Tardy Policy**

The tardy policy will be enforced in this class. If you are not inside the classroom or at the designated rehearsal space when the bell rings, you are tardy. The tardy offenses are as follows:

* + 1st Tardy – Warning
  + 2nd Tardy – Parent Contact
  + 3rd Tardy – Lunch detention and Parent Contact
  + 4th Tardy – Referral to Administration and Parent Contact
  + Any tardy after four is a an automatic referral to administration

**Green Hope High School Honor Code**

Please review the GHHS Honor Code. By signing the syllabus, you are agreeing to follow all guidelines of the GHHS honor code.

**Green Hope High School Honor Code**

Green Hope High School is a school community that is committed to integrity and excellence in academics and in personal accountability.  Because of this commitment, it is imperative that all members of the Green Hope High School community embody personal honor, personal integrity, and personal responsibility.  Therefore, it is expected that each person at Green Hope High School will uphold the honor code and will refrain from the following:

**Plagiarism and copying:**  Plagiarism is the use of words, ideas, and/or information that is not your own. Copying includes using another person’s work as your own.  Copying is not limited to “word for word” action but can apply to reading another person’s idea and paraphrasing his or her idea as your own. Copying applies not only to formal assessments but also to homework and in-class work.

**Cheating:** Numerous behaviors will be considered cheating. Some of these areas include, but are not limited to, the following: using cheat sheets; using former students’ notebooks; using internet resources without citing them as appropriate sources; misrepresenting something as being real and actual; using cell phones to create images of tests, quizzes, and/or other assignments; and text messaging with other students regarding a test or quiz. The use of technology in cheating can occur on small assignments such as homework assignments as well as on more formal tests, essays, and projects. Students can be guilty of cheating if they give out or are in receipt of the material.

**Discussions of material:**  Discussions of tests and quizzes with other students when it is not specifically allowed by the teacher and when it is intended to give an unfair advantage to that student are prohibited under the Green Hope High School Honor Code.

**Lying and fraudulent behavior:** Lying and fraudulent behavior occurs when one intentionally deceives another through words, actions, or omissions.

**Veracity and integrity of work:** All work must be completed by that individual to whom it was assigned. A parent, friend, or tutor cannot complete the work for the student.  The work or the project must be under the “direct control” of the student and not under the control of the parent, friend, or tutor.  Inappropriate help occurs when suggestions and/or support provided exceeds the help and guidance a teacher might give in class or during a tutorial session.

**Infractions for Breaking the Honor Code:**updated 8/2015

**1st Infraction**

* Student gets a zero with an opportunity to take an alternate assignment that they must complete within two days of the offer.
* The student will be given 60% credit for the alternate assignment.

**2nd Infraction**

* Student gets a zero with an opportunity to take an alternate assignment that must be completed within two days of the offer.
* The student will be given 50% credit for the alternate assignment.

**3rd Infraction**

* The student will receive a zero for the assignment.

Note: Infractions are added up for each individual student over ALL his/her classes, NOT for each individual classes.

**WCPSS Grade Point System**

Please review the new grade point system that is being implemented this school year.

**Course Overview**

This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. However, this should give you a general overview of what will be covered this semester.

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| --- | --- |
| Week 1 | * Introduction to the course * Theater exercises that establish trust, communication, and culture * Begin study of theater history. |
| Weeks 2, 3, 4 | * Shakespearian Acting (classical acting) * Understanding subtext both literarily and figuratively * Work on scenes from Shakespeare * Present Shakespeare scenes as culminating activity for this unit. |
| Weeks 5, 6, 7 | * Begin unit on “emotion.” * Learn how to activate authentic and organic emotion. * Partner scene study and individual scene study with contemporary works. * Present scenes as culminating activity with unit. |
| Weeks 8, 9 | * Dramatic analysis of plays with abstract themes. * Dramatic analysis of plays with abstract/political/social themes. * Read, study, and present concepts of these plays. |
| Weeks 10, 11, 12 | * Intensive unit on silhouette acting * Present student-designed scenes as part of the culminating grade for the unit. * Continue studies in theatre history |
| Weeks 13, 14, 15 | * Contemporary Scene Study—Part II * Students receive further study in contemporary acting and character development * Students will be writing and performing 10 minute shorts in class. * Also preparation for Showcase * Theatre Arts II Showcase – Day 12/16/15 |
| Week 16, 17 | * Study of “performance art” * Scene study and presentations on Mask Theatre * Begin studies for final exam |
| Weeks 18 | * Final Exam Week * Final will include individual work, scene work, and paper/pencil examinations. |

**Directions:** Please print off and complete this part of the syllabus. Return this paper to Mr. Gorski by Friday.

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Print your first initial and last name here.

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Grade Level

I have read Mr. Gorski’s rules and expectations for Theatre Arts I. I understand that failure to comply with these expectations will impact my success in this course. I have also read and reviewed the honor code for Green Hope High School and understand its contents.

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Student Signature Date

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Parent Signature Date

**Parent Contact Information:**

Parent(s) Name(s):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone Number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent E-mail Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student E-mail Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have access to the internet at home?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Extra Curricular Activities, Sports, Hobbies, etc… (anything I should know about you?)