

Drama 2 AB Syllabus

2023-2024

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Buchanan Drama Website: <http://bearstage.org/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Prerequisite: Drama 1 AB with “B” or higher, or permission of instructor.

Drama 2AB is an **intermediate level course** designed to build upon skills learned in Drama 1AB.

Emphasis will be placed on more **advanced acting techniques** such as **acting styles**, **monologues**, and **character development**. Work will also include non-acting skills such as **playwriting**, **play analysis** and **elements of design**.

PRIORITY STANDARDS

This is a National Core Arts Standards-based course (with careful, selective attention to appropriate ELA Common Core Standards). All standards will be taught, with a special emphasis on the following (<https://www.nationalartsstandards.org/>):

CREATING

- Anchor Standard #1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
- Anchor Standard #2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
- Anchor Standard #3: Refine and complete artistic work.

RESPONDING

- Anchor Standard #7: Perceive and analyze artistic work.
- Anchor Standard #8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.
- Anchor Standard #9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

PERFORMING/PRESENTING/ PRODUCING

PRODUCING

- Anchor Standard #4: Select, analyze and interpret artistic work for presentation.
- Anchor Standard #5: Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.
- Anchor Standard #6: Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.

CONNECTING

- Anchor Standard #10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.
- Anchor Standard #11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

For your overall academic success, it would be beneficial to have the following items (if you need assistance obtaining these items, please contact me):

- access to a **computer** with **internet access**
- use of your **school email**, **google drive account**, and **google classroom**
- a planner or calendar to keep track of the agenda and assignments
- **pen**, **paper**, and a **highlighter** for occasional written work during class time

**This class will largely function in person. However, some assignments will be submitted online, and some digital work may be assigned.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT AND EXPECTATIONS

- Students are expected to be on time and ready to learn when the bell rings. This includes preparedness of any and all assignments that are due that class period. Students entering the class after the bell will be marked “tardy” in the attendance record.
- BE RESPECTFUL AND RESPONSIBLE. Any behavior in which a student engages must be appropriate. This means no references to **drugs**, **alcohol**, **sexuality**, or other **unsuitable issues**. Anything considered unkind or inconsiderate is unacceptable.
- **Profanity** is not tolerated.
- Please put cell phones and other electronic devices away during class time.
- **Be positive and willing to try! Listening to instructions and follow them the first time they are given! There are *no* excuses!**

BATHROOM POLICY

This rule is subject to change at any time without warning.

You may use the bathroom as needed; however, this is privilege that will be removed if it is abused.

Only one student is allowed to use the restroom at once time; be considerate of your classmates.

Class time is for academic learning; passing periods, break, before and after school, and lunch are for taking care of personal needs.

I do recognize that sometimes there are emergencies that can not wait. I do require you sign in and out of the classroom.

EATING AND DRINKING

Food in class is okay as long as it is not a distraction to the learning environment.

You are expected to clean up your messes.

OVERVIEW OF ASSIGNMENTS

Students are expected to participate in a broad spectrum of assignments in the theater arts realm. The majority of topics will be covered; assignments are subject to change or modification or can be added or deleted at anytime during the year at the discretion of the instructor.

Daily Participation:

Students are expected to *voluntarily* participate in daily classroom assignments and activities to receive full credit (10 points each class meeting—30 points a week). **This is an “all or nothing” assignment.** Severe misbehavior can result in a loss of participation points. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to see Ms. Paxton for an assignment to make up these points. Points can also be removed for being off task.

****These points will be entered at the end of each week as a cumulative assignment for the week.**

****NOTE: being on your phone, being tardy, or not participating to the best of your ability puts you at risk for losing these points.**

Acting: Voice and Movement

- Tableau/Pantomime
- Improvisation
- Storytelling
- Scenes and Monologues
- Characterization

Musical Theatre

- Voice
- Dancing/Choreography

Writing and Theatre Projects

- **Critiques:** *Students are required to view a LIVE theater performance and write one critique per semester.*
- Standards-Based Quizzes and Tests
- Multimedia projects & presentations

Technical Theatre

- Directing and Design

Historical Context

- Theatre History
- Careers of stars, playwrights, directors, and designers

UNITS

Text	<i>Arsenic and Old Lace</i> , by Joseph Kesselring	Mortimer Brewster is living a happy life: he has a steady job at a prominent New York newspaper, he's just become engaged, and he gets to visit his sweet spinster aunts to announce the engagement-- but his world is turned upside down when he realizes that his dear aunts have been poisoning lonely old men for years! When Mortimer's maniacal brother, Jonathan returns on the night that the aunts were planning to bury the newest victim, Mortimer must rally to help his aunts and protect his fiancé -- all while trying to keep his own sanity.	Comedy/Farce Theater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Person Scenes • Characterization/Developing Character • Comedy Acting technique
Text	<i>Radium Girls</i> , DW Gregory	It's 1926. Radium is a miracle cure, Madame Curie an international celebrity, and luminous watches the latest rage. Until the girls who paint those watch dials begin to die. Based on the true story of the women and men who worked for the U.S. Radium Corporation in Orange, N.J., <i>Radium Girls</i> is a fast-paced stage play that is an examination of the commercialization of science and the twin American obsessions with the pursuit of health and wealth.	Documentary Theater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Scenework • Characterization/Developing Character • Historical Context
Text	<i>Eurydice</i> , by Sarah Ruhl	"Eurydice" reimagines the classic myth of Orpheus and Eurydice not through Orpheus's infamous pilgrimage to retrieve his bride, but through the eyes of its heroine. Dying too young on her wedding day, Eurydice must journey to the underworld, where she reunites with her father and struggles to remember her lost love.	Abstract Theater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directing • Characterization/Developing Character
Text	<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> , by Jerry Bock, Sheldon Harnick & Joseph Stein	<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> is the beloved story of the small, tradition-steeped town of Anatevka, Russia, where Jews and Russians live in delicate balance. During the course of the show, the time honored traditions of Anatevka are both embraced and challenged by Tevye and his colorful community, as they witness his daughters, Tzeitel, Hodel and Chava, grow up and fall in love in a time of extraordinary change. It is a story that captures the essential human longings for love, community, success, freedom, family, and meaning.	Musical Theater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choreography • Blockography • Characterization/Developing Character • Historical Context
Text	<i>Twelfth Night or What you Will</i> , William Shakespeare	In this Shakespearean rom-com, Viola, separated from her twin Sebastian, dresses as a boy and works for the Duke Orsino, whom she falls in love with. Orsino is in love with the Countess Olivia, and sends Viola to court her for him, but Olivia falls for Viola instead. Sebastian arrives, causing a flood of mistaken identity, and marries Olivia. Viola then reveals she is a girl and marries Orsino.	Shakespeare/Classical Theater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monologues • Characterization/Developing Character

Text	<i>Mother Road</i> , by Octavio Solis	Terminally ill William Joad needs to find an heir to his sprawling Joad ranch in Sallisaw, OK. He is mortified to find that the only surviving descendant of Tom Joad who came to California with the "Okie" migration in the 1930's is a young Mexican-American named Martin. Together, they ride the Mother Road from Bakersfield, Ca to Oklahoma and forge the new character of the nation inside each other and in the people they encounter along the way. An epic work inspired by John Steinbeck's novel <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> .	Dramatic/ Contemporary Theater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characterization/ Developing Character • Historical Context • Choice of Performance
Research and Presentation	Playwright	Students will research and become an expert on a well-known historical or contemporary playwright. Students will present their findings to the class and coordinate an activity or game.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research • Visual Aid • Guided Activity
Written Evaluation	Theater Critique	Students will watch a live theater production and construct an evaluation of the play or musical.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written 5 paragraph essay

EVALUATION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Student work will be evaluated on the basis of quality, range of style, depth and complexity of thinking, creativity and originality, and mechanical correctness.

LATE WORK POLICY:

An assignment is considered late if it is not turned into the teacher by the designated due date.

ALL late assignments will be awarded 50% of what the assignment deserves. An assignment worth 10 points can not receive more than a 5/10 if it is late.

I will not accept work past the grading period in which it was assigned.

If you are absent, it is *your responsibility* to contact the teacher to obtain any and all missed materials and information. The website calendar is also an excellent way to keep track daily of what is happening in class and what is for homework. Assignment deadlines are non-negotiable.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Students will be expected to complete assignments to the best of **their personal ability** to display learning. Cheating violates this belief and will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating will automatically fail the assignment and be subject to school and district penalties.

Plagiarism is the act of using another person's work and submitting it as your own. This behavior is **unacceptable**. Anyone caught plagiarizing will automatically fail the assignment and be subject to school and district penalties.

GRADING POLICY

Extra credit assignments may be available throughout the school year, but extra credit assignments will not be accepted **unless that student has turned in all of the class's required assignments**. Extra credit can account for no more than 2% of your overall grade.

Your grade will be weighted according to category and determined as follows:

Participation in Daily Projects: 30%

A = 100-90%

Written Assignments: 30%

B = 80-89.9%

Performances: 30%

C = 70-79.9%

Written Critique: 10%

D = 60-69.9%

F = 0-59.9%

There will be no rounding of grades (i.e. in order to earn an A-, a student needs to have a 90.0%).

****NOTE: Parents and Guardians—** Any grade lower than a 70% is not considered passing; I will frequently phone home with information about Drama 1 assignments if this percentage applies to your child. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have concerns regarding your child's progress in my class.