

## **Theatre Arts 1 Syllabus**

**Hammond High School**

**Room 104**

**E-mail: ltobiason@hcpss.org**

Course Objective: To introduce students to all aspects of the theatre arts. We seek an experience in a group artistic endeavor that will stretch students intellectually, physically, and emotionally.

Course Description: Students will be introduced to both performance and production for the theatre. We will explore various aspects of theatre through:

- Creative activities and experimentation with the student's own material (both individual and group) through acting exercises, theatre games, improvised scenes, and pantomime exercises
- Presentations and projects, including designing scenery, lighting, costumes, props, publicity, theatre history
- Lectures, demonstrations, hand-outs, discussions, readings from the text book
- Study of and experimentation with superb scripts: performing monologues and scenes; discussion and analysis; written assignments and quizzes; viewing and critiquing performances.

Scripts: To be determined—some teacher assigned, some student selected, some student generated.

Assignments:

- Seeing and reviewing live theatrical productions
- Class rehearsal and performance: improvisation, solo and group exercises, monologues, and scenes
- Analyzing scripts and texts and devising performances from fictional and non-fictional material
- Developing theatrical, technical, critical, and literary vocabulary
- Identification and practice of theatre production roles and responsibilities
- Audition preparation and mock audition performance
- Character and script analyses
- Short essays and reflective journal writing
- Design concepts and basic design elements of scenery, costumes, props, lights and sound
- Research and presentation of historical eras and noteworthy theatre artists
- Memorizing lines, scenes, and poems
- Discussion and constructive feedback

Materials: Students will need the following materials by **Friday September 4, 2015**.

- Bound journal or composition book for in-class use
- Dedicated Theatre Arts 1 section in notebook (for homework, scripts, etc.)
- Blue or black pens, pencils with erasers, and a highlighter
- Loose leaf notebook paper
- Textbooks and scripts (as assigned)

Grading Policies:

In accordance with the Howard County Public School System, the grading breakdown is as follows:

90-100% - A                      80-89% - B                      70-79% - C                      60-69% - D                      Below 60% - E

Assignments will be weighted in the following manner:

- Participation (attendance, promptness, contributions to class, attitude): 20%
- Tests and Quizzes: 20%
- Written Work (daily assignments and long-term projects): 20%
- Performance (individual and group performances): 40%

Late written work will be accepted for 10% off each day it is late. No work will be accepted more than one week late. Late work may not be turned in after the close of a quarter. Performances must be performed on scheduled due dates unless students have an excused absence. Students must provide an excused note within two days of the absence and will have as many days as they were absent to complete their work.

Policies and Procedures:

Remember that **all school rules apply in this classroom**; no exceptions. My expectation is everyone in this classroom must feel SAFE. Physical and emotional safety can only be achieved through **respect of people, their opinions, and their property**. This is especially important in an environment where our main goals are to share honestly, take risks, and support one another. We will thoroughly discuss what “respect” looks like in our class. If, after this discussion, you have any further questions or concerns, please speak with me.

Behavior:

1. Absolutely **no food, drink or gum** in class or the auditorium. Water in clear bottles is allowed.
2. Electronic devices should not be seen or heard in the classroom unless they are a part of instruction.
3. Students should **dress to move**, which means wearing clothing that lets them bend, stretch or sit on the floor. Clothing must also follow the dress code for HCPSS.
4. **Follow directions the first time they are given.**
5. Be **seated and ready to work at the bell** and do not prepare to leave before being dismissed by Mrs. Tobiason.
6. Students must be **quiet and attentive during all student performances**. Proper audience behavior is a necessary component in this course. *Behave as you want your audience to behave when you are onstage.*
7. Students will support the **Core Values of Hammond High School**: Academic Achievement, Diversity, Honesty, Integrity, Perseverance, Personal Responsibility, and Respect.

Consequences: If a student is disrespectful to another person or does not follow the rules for class behavior, he or she will have a verbal conference with Mrs. Tobiason and may need to write a letter of explanation or apology. On the second offense, a detention will be issued and a parent or guardian will be contacted. Any following incidents will be referred to the administration. It is possible that certain behaviors may result in an immediate referral to the administration if the student is causing a major classroom disruption or jeopardizing the safety of any individual in the class.

Synergy/Canvas Links for Students and Parents: Students can access grades and course materials on Synergy and Canvas by logging in at <https://hcpss.me> . Parents will be able to check their students' grades and attendance through HCPSS Connect at [www.hcpss.org/connect](http://www.hcpss.org/connect) .

Hammond Honor Code: All students are expected to abide by the Hammond High School Honor Code at all times and will be held accountable for any violations of the Honor Code.

Use of Technology: The use of personal communication devices and other electronics will not be permitted during class time unless teacher permission is given. Students must follow all relevant HCPSS Policies, including but not limited to Responsible Use of Technology and Social Media (Policy 8080) and Technology Security (3040) policies. The student takes all responsibility for the device's safety, security, and maintenance. Staff members will confiscate these items if the above expectations are not followed, and the items will only be returned to a parent/guardian in the front office.

Attendance: The HCPSS Attendance policy (9010) states that students may be denied credit for a course if they exceed 5% absences (9 days in a full-year course) in the course. An absence is only excused if a legal excuse slip is supplied within two school days. **Note on attendance:** Being “present” in this class requires not only a physical presence, but a willingness to participate in warm-up exercises, group activities, and performances when it is a part of the day's lesson. It is very difficult to learn the elements of drama without trying them out. *I expect theatre students to try new things, work cooperatively with others, and stay involved as performers and audience members. If you do not feel that you can follow these guidelines, this may not be the course for you.*

I look forward to getting to know each of you. I will do whatever I can to foster your artistic and personal growth. Please bring your energy, ideas, and completed homework to class every single day!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Lauren Tobiason

**IMPORTANT HAMMOND THEATRE DATES  
2015-2016**

8/26—Informational meeting for *Arsenic and Old Lace* auditions, 2:20-2:40

9/2—Auditions for *Arsenic and Old Lace* (fall play), 2:30-5:30pm

9/3—Call backs, 2:30-5pm

9/4—Cast list posted

11/12—*Arsenic and Old Lace* performs, 7pm

11/13-- *Arsenic and Old Lace* performs, 7pm

11/14-- *Arsenic and Old Lace* performs, 2pm and 7pm

11/30-12/2—*The Pajama Game* (musical) auditions, 2:30-5pm

1/7—Advanced Theatre Festival at HCC

3/3—*The Pajama Game* performs, 7pm

3/4-- *The Pajama Game* performs, 7pm

3/5-- *The Pajama Game* performs, 2pm and 7pm

3/7-3/10—Musical performance SNOW DATES

3/10—Dramastics Improv auditions, 2:30-4:30

3/24—NYC field trip

4/7—Dramastics Improv show, 7pm

4/28-4/29—One act performances, 7pm

5/5— Dramastics Improv show, 7pm

5/23—Theatre banquet (cafeteria), 6pm (cafeteria)