

Hillcrest High School

THEATRE TWO **Syllabus 2015-2016**

Teacher - Mr. Brent Jones
School Phone – 342-2800

Textbook – Various scripts, handouts
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Course Description:

In this course, you will perform a wide variety of theatrical activities, based upon your specific interests in the various aspects of theatre. You will hone your craft and/or expand your knowledge in acting, technical theatre, musical theatre, stage management, etc.

Objectives:

- To expand knowledge and practice of theatre
- To produce pantomimes, monologues, reader's theatre, scenes, and a variety of other performance pieces for competitions
- To participate in the production of school plays and musicals
- To improve critical thinking skills and creativity
- To improve confidence and performance skills in front of an audience

Topics

- Producing plays
- Performance in plays
- Aspects of directing plays
- Technical theatre

Supplies

- Notebook
- Pencils
- Pens
- Imagination
- Creativity
- Good attitude
- Energy
- Enthusiasm
- Awesomeness

*There will also be various supplies that will be necessary as the year goes along. Please be prepared to contribute to these needs as they arise. Theatre is a TEAM effort, and it truly takes every one of us contributing his/her time and talents in order to be successful.

Behavior

Students are expected to have a positive attitude and to use their class time wisely. Students are expected to be responsible, **respectful**, resourceful, **prompt**, and hardworking. Good attendance is a must. Perfect attendance is encouraged.

Students will be working in small groups **FREQUENTLY** with other students in the class. Participation, ability to get along with others in your group, and your individual effort grade will be a **LARGE** portion of each performance assignment.

Evaluation (Your grade!)/Grading Policy:

The final grade for each nine weeks grading period will be based on various methods of assessment. These methods may include, but are not limited to the ones listed below. Your grade will be determined by number of points earned divided by number of points possible.

Miscellaneous activities		There will be many of these. All will be related to our topics of study.
Class Participation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General participation, enthusiasm, effort, teamwork. This grade will be given weekly and is based on Mr. Jones's assessment of your efforts and behavior. As long as you are respectful to others and you put forth reasonable effort, you will receive full credit in this category. Class cleanliness will be a part of this grade as well. The whole class is responsible for keeping the class neat and organized. The last 5 minutes of class will be dedicated to straightening, picking up, cleaning, etc. This grade could come down if the class is not neat and clean at the end of the class period.
Written tests		Tests on various topics of study
Performance tests		Performances of plays, scenes, etc.
Competition pieces		<p>Early November (Trumbauer) and Mid-January (Thespian)</p> <p>You MUST prepare at least one competition piece each semester. You are not required to go to competition, but you must prepare as if you are.</p> <p>*If you choose to go to the competitions and actually compete, you will receive automatic full credit for this assignment, which will be a MAJOR assignment, worth a large amount of points.</p>

Nine Weeks Exam: A comprehensive assessment will be administered at the end of each nine weeks. **This assessment will count 20 percent of the grade for each nine weeks. Students may not be exempted from the nine weeks exams.**

Final Exam: A comprehensive assessment for material covered in all nine week periods will be administered at the end of the school year. **This exam will count as 20 percent of the overall grade for the course.** Students may become exempt from the exam by meeting the following criteria: 1) "C" average and 2 absences; 2) "B" average and 4 absences; 3) "A" average and 6 absences AND no discipline referrals that result in detention, ISI, or suspension during the school year.

Progress Reports: Students will receive a mid-nine weeks report for each nine weeks periods.

Make-up Policy: Students have two days to complete assignments after returning to school with an absence. Major projects or group presentations must be completed on the scheduled date. It is the student's responsibility to find out about missed assignments and to make arrangements to complete the assignments.

Late Assignments: No late work will be accepted.

Extra Credit: I do not assign or create extra credit for students to bring up their grades.

Technology Policy: Personal Electronic Devices

Technology can be a valuable educational resource. Students are allowed to use electronic and technological devices at **SPECIFIED** times and **ONLY** when authorized by the teacher for an instructional purpose. Devices such as smart phones, Kindles, Nooks, laptops, and iPads are items that students can use at the designated time. Students may also use these devices to replace paperback/hard-cover novels required for purchase/use for reading assignments. **If a student is using a device inappropriately (not in accordance with classroom instruction or TCBOE policy), consequences will be enforced as stated in the Code of Conduct Handbook.**

Class Rules

1. Be ready.

- No food, drinks, or gum in class.
- Listen when I am talking or when someone else is talking.
- Offer constructive criticism. Watch the words you use to critique work.
- Be mature. Avoid negativity towards each other or towards any assignments.
- Be **present** and on time. (HHS Tardy policy will be enforced)
- Bring necessary materials.
- Respect EVERYONE.**
- Be attentive.
- Keep electronic devices put away unless permission has been granted for class purposes.
- Straighten the classroom before leaving.

IMPORTANT calendar notes and “MUSTS” for Theatre Two and a successful theatre program

As you know, last year was a big success, with our musical, "The 25th Annual Putnam Co. Spelling Bee," our production of "To Kill a Mockingbird," and our individual successes at the two state theatre competitions. I really feel good about the quality of the performances and the interest that was generated for the theatre program. Theatre has had a history of greatness at Hillcrest through the years, and I want it to continue to be a source of pride for the school in the years to come.

The MOST important things that I saw last year were incredible teamwork, pride, and "family" atmosphere created among you, the students, regarding your accomplishments. I feel like you learned and benefited in so many ways, and after all, YOU are what it's all about!

Here is what I am thinking for this year:

First Semester

1.) Trumbauer Theatre Festival/Competition-

Interested students attend and compete in individual events with other students across the state. District competition is the first Saturday in November at Corner High School. Students who receive superior rankings move on to the State Competition that is held in Troy on the first weekend in December (overnight trip). Students pay their own way for this.

2.) One Act play-

I haven't decided which play yet, but I would like to produce a simple one act play that we could do for a couple of performances for the public in our theatre and take to the Trumbauer competition. Performances for this would be in late October.

3.) Non-Musical Two Act Play-

I would like for us to produce a two act non-musical play to present to the school and also have a few public performances. I have a couple of possibilities for titles in mind. Leading the way is a very funny, but also meaningful play called, "The Boys Next Door." Performances for this play would be in December (might try to move this one to April or early May...working around the other band/choral concert dates, of course)

Second Semester

1.) **State Thespian Festival-** This takes place the weekend of January 15-16 at Samford University in Birmingham. It is similar to the Trumbauer Festival that I mentioned in the first semester plans. Again, students pay their own way.

2.) **School Musical-** Here is the biggie... Right now I am thinking about doing "Shrek, the Musical." This will be a very big, very involved, and expensive musical to produce. However, I feel like it will also be very popular and will make money in the long run. I hope to involve students from the feeder schools in becoming a part of our cast, and I hope to have feeder school audiences. I am looking at performances in February, as we did last year, since February is one of the slowest months of the year as far as other activities at the school go.

*** A side note:** I am SO excited to have Dr. Khristy Motley with us! She and I have been friends for over 25 years and have worked together a great deal (Including producing one musical together.) We have been trying to coordinate an opportunity to work together at a school for years and years, and we are both very excited to finally get to produce more musicals together!

***Another side note:**

The up-front costs of producing high quality theatre are great. The amount of volunteer time needed from you, your friends, and your family is great. We need your help in the following ways:

- Dedication to be present, on time, and prepared at all rehearsals
- The willingness to listen to notes from your director, and work on improving at home and in rehearsal
- The willingness to learn and perfect lines and music at rehearsal and at home.
- The willingness to recruit volunteer help from friends and family for set-building, props, painting, etc.
- The willingness to participate in any fundraisers, ticket sales, ad sales, etc. that are implemented to raise money for the theatre program.
- The willingness to promote our shows and our department to help build its reputation and growth.
- The willingness to work on and develop any and all technical aspects of the theatre to which you have been assigned.

HERE'S TO AN AWESOME 2015-2016 for HILLCREST THEATRE!

