

WLHS THEATRE ARTS
STEVEN BECKINGHAM
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OFFICE HOURS: By arrangement

ACTING I COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Through self and collaborative exploration, students will develop skills in all aspects of acting. During this course students will investigate stagecraft, voice, movement, text, improvisation, and performance within focused units of study. Students will be assessed and evaluated through rubrics, portfolios, self-reflection, group-reflection, and quizzes.

COURSE TOPICS AND GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- I. Ensemble Building:** What is acting? Why study acting? What defines “ensemble”?
- II. The Space:** How do we define a theatrical space? How is that space best utilized?
- III. The Voice:** How does an actor use breath support and vocal techniques to engage an audience? Why is warming-up important?
- IV. Character:** How do you build a character outside of yourself? How do you find truth as an actor and character?
- V. Movement & Physical Theatre:** What are the physical tools utilized to become an engaged actor or actress? How can we tell stories with and without using words?
- VI. Improvisation & Storytelling:** How can an actor communicate a story through imagination, objective, and sequencing?
- VII. The Text:** How do given circumstances and events inform the actor/character?
- VIII. Performance:** How do all elements combine to find truth and believability on stage?

TEXT: (supplied by instructor)

Respect for Acting by Uta Hagen
Various articles and handouts

UNIT CONTENT:

Ensemble Building: Collaborative Games (Authors Augusto Boal & Viola Spolin),

The Space: Tour of Spaces, Stage Types/Directions, Stage Pictures, Who? What? Where?

The Voice: Warm-ups, Breath Control, Care, Alexander Technique (posture and tension release), Centering, Voice Types, Open Scenes

Character: Character Building and Process Drama

Movement & Physical Theatre: Mime & Pantomime, Laban Technique, Stage Combat.

Improvisation & Storytelling: Listening and Awareness Games, Story Building, Fairy Tales

The Text: Given Circumstances, Events, Interpretation and Dynamics, Script Scoring

Performance: Audience and Fourth Wall, Scripted Scenes, Rehearsing.

EXPECTATIONS:

Students are expected to attend all class sessions, arrive on time, participate in class activities, and treat all members of the class community with respect, compassion, and kindness. Disrespect and or/judgement towards peers and/or the teacher will not be tolerated.

CELL PHONES NEED TO BE OFF AND PUT AWAY FOR THE ENTIRE DURATION OF CLASS!
I do have a phone safe in which students can place phones. In doing so, a student can earn .5 extra credit point each time they do it (added to participation grade)

GRADING: 100%-90% A 89%-80% B (+/-) 79%-70% C (+/-) 69%-60% D (+/-)

- Participation/Collaboration 20%
- Assignments/Small Projects 15%
- Outside Experience Points 15%
- Exams 15%
- Portfolios 5%
- Final
 - Collaborative Scene Performance 15%
 - Final Exam 15%

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Students will be required to maintain a class portfolio (to include notes, assignments, quizzes reflections, ideas, etc.) throughout the semester. Ideally, this would be a thin three-ring binder with dividers for different units and sections. **Portfolios must be neatly organized.** Portfolios will be checked periodically. There will be 5 total points possible for each check. Students will get at least 3 days notice before a portfolio check.

RESOURCES:

WLHS Theatre Arts Blog: <http://www.wlhs theatre.org>

Steve's School Website: <http://www.wlhs.wlww.k12.or.us/Page/3344>

Google Classroom: <https://classroom.google.com>

Grades: <http://www2.wlhs.wlww.k12.or.us/SMStuff/>

“Let it Live”

OUTSIDE EXPERIENCE POINTS

Experience Points are homework and must be done **outside** of class time - students may pick from a range of projects or activities. OEPs call for students to seek out experiences and information related to the course, and additionally, write thoughtful, in-depth analysis and reflection to demonstrate understanding of course concepts.

- ✓ 20 OE Points are required each semester. 10 points should be turned in approximately every two months (Specific due dates will be determined and posted on Google Classroom).
- ✓ Extra OE points may be used to make up points (participation, assignments, group work) but not performances, quizzes or the final project. This applies to excused absences only.
- ✓ Late OE Point projects will be accepted for partial credit.
- ✓ Guidelines will be given for analysis depending on the nature of the project.
- ✓ OE Points **will only be awarded with a typed analysis**. OEP analyses can be submitted in hard copy or as an email attachment from a student email account, or shared via Google Drive.
- ✓ For each OEP, you will receive 10 points for simply doing the activity. Your essay will be graded out of 15 points. So, overall, ONE perfect OEP project would be 25/25 points.

OUTSIDE EXPERIENCE POINT OPTIONS:

- I. Attending a live performance of a play or musical. Need copy of ticket and program as evidence. (10 points)
- II. Reading a full-length play. Need to show copy of play as evidence. (10 points)
One-Act plays (5 points)
- III. Rehearsing /performing in a school or community production as an actor, stage manager, or tech crew member. (20 points for full-length, 10 points for one-act)
- IV. Auditioning for a play, film, or musical. (5 points)
- V. Reading a full book on acting or any other area of theatre. (20 points)
- VI. Reading a magazine or journal article concerning issues in performing arts or theatre education. (5 points) – **Online resources will count, but must print for evidence.**
- VII. Taking acting classes or theatre workshops outside of class. (Negotiable)
- VIII. Work party participation (points depend on hours)
- IX. Any other project may be designed by the student to accommodate their interests or opportunities. Please present a proposal to the instructor.

I have read and understood the OEP component to Acting I class.

STUDENT NAME: _____ PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____