

# West Linn–Wilsonville School District

## The Arts – Course Statement

### Course Title: Scene Study

**Length of Course:** Semester  
**Number of Credits:** 1  
**Grade Level:** 10, 11, 12  
**Prerequisites:** Acting I  
**CIM Work Samples Offered in Course:** Writing, speaking work samples

**Date of Description/Revision:** April 2002

### Course Overview

This is a course in intermediate acting technique designed for the student who wishes to perfect his or her performance skills in scripted scenes and who is ready for the discipline of a more advanced acting environment. Students will be expected to study theatre history and to demonstrate knowledge of selected historical details and performance styles. Emphasis is placed on the analysis of scene and character and on performance of scenes from plays of a variety of historical periods.

### Essential Questions

### Concepts providing focus for student learning

- What is “good” acting?
- How do I do it?
- How did theatre develop from its origins to the present?
- What are some enduring characteristics of theatres and theatre styles over time?
- What acting strategies and skills are necessary to play roles from different historical periods?
- How can I audition more effectively?

### Proficiency Statements

Upon completion of course, students will be able to:

- Perform a minimum of six scenes, demonstrating the ability to use appropriate period style.
- Demonstrate the ability to incorporate basic detail (who, relationship, where, when, what, why, obstacles, and strategies) and perform believably in his or her scene work.
- Use writing to analyze the physical, emotional, intellectual, and social dimensions of characters found in selected scripted scenes.
- Demonstrate artistic discipline in warm-ups, rehearsals, classroom activities, and performances.
- Articulate and justify personal aesthetic criteria for critiquing the work of own and others' performances.
- Accurately define and use both basic and historically-based vocabulary.
- Demonstrate knowledge of key facts, trends, characteristics, and carryovers of selected periods of theatre history.

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- Create consistent and believable characters within a wide variety of theatre styles, including classical, contemporary, realistic, and non-realistic dramatic texts.
- Constructively evaluate own and others' efforts and artistic choices. Understand what "good" acting entails.
- Insightfully integrate own unique background and personal experiences and knowledge into performances.
- Demonstrate the ability to successfully prepare and perform a traditional five minute audition piece.

<b>General Course Topics/Units &amp; Timeframes</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Introduction: purpose and goals of a course in Scene Study <span style="float: right;">1 week</span></li> <li>B. The Theatre <span style="float: right;">4 weeks</span> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elements, terminology, background</li> <li>• Short scenes (focus on review of basic analysis and performance skills)</li> </ul> </li> <li>C. Classical Drama: The Greeks (history and performance) <span style="float: right;">3 weeks</span></li> <li>D. The Renaissance: Shakespeare and his contemporaries (history and performance) <span style="float: right;">3 weeks</span></li> <li>E. The Royal Theatre: Moliere and his contemporaries (history and performance) <span style="float: right;">4 weeks</span></li> <li>F. The Realistic Theatre: 1900 to present (history and performance) <span style="float: right;">4 weeks</span></li> <li>G. Performance Monologues: the audition piece <span style="float: right;">2 weeks</span></li> </ul>	



<b>Resources</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text: <i>Theatre</i>, Robert Cohen</li> <li>• Other: Various handouts (magazine articles, informational pieces, scenes, assignments)</li> <li>• Other: Guest artists; Portland Center Stage partnership (lecture/discussion, play performances, talk-backs)</li> </ul>	