

# Theatre Arts Fundamentals Syllabus

Mr. Michael Buino

Fall 2016 – Spring 2017

School: 773-535-9150

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Class Website: [harperdrama.weebly.com](http://harperdrama.weebly.com)

## Course Description

This is an introductory level course that focuses primarily on the performative aspects of theater. Students will participate in the theatrical process through improvisation, mime, and text analysis. Students will engage in theatrical performances of monologues and scenes. The course will include the critique and evaluation of live theatrical performances.

## Objectives

The student will have an opportunity to develop strategies and knowledge to:

1. Understand the performing arts and gain appreciation for the art form.
2. Discuss the origins and values of theatre arts and their place in contemporary American society.
3. Develop stage presence and voice projection through participation in performance activities.
4. Understand the technical aspects of theatrical production.
5. Understand and demonstrate knowledge of the play production process.

## Course Outline

A. Self-Awareness

B. The Ensemble Ethic

C. Movement

D. Monologues

E. Storytelling/Reader's Theatre

F. Improvisation/Pantomime

G. Spoken Word/Poetry Slam

H. Social Problem Plays

I. Directing and Producing: Roles of Director and Producer, Production Team, and Performance Space

J. Technical Theatre: Stage Crew, Set Construction and Prop Crews, Costume and Makeup Crews

## Requirements

Students will be required to do both performance and written work in this course.

1. A **Digital Drama Portfolio** containing samples of the student's performance and written work will be required. Each student will be given a student account through the educational website [www.weebly.com](http://www.weebly.com) and instruction on how to create the digital

portfolio. Each semester students will be required to present their digital portfolio to the teacher with required elements, this digital portfolio will serve as their FINAL EXAM each semester. Students who do not complete the digital portfolio will NOT pass the semester.

- 2. Performance Critiques** are required once per semester and are to be turned in 2 weeks after the production. Students are to attend a local LIVE performance and write a professional critique of the performance. Other local high school plays, Court Theatre performances, University of Illinois Chicago performances, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre performances and any performances at storefront theatres are all good choices for this assignment. Keep the playbill or program to include in your Drama Portfolio. If there is no possible way to attend a live performance then a video of a play may be used at my discretion.
- 3. Class participation** is an important part of this class. All students are required to have a positive attitude towards their own participation and toward the participation of others.

### Evaluations

Learning Behavior	15%
Assessments	20%
Homework	10%
Class Work and Exercises	30%
Performances	25%

### Daily Learning Behavior Grade Rubric

#### **100 Points A**

Actively engages in theatre activity of assignment with self or group for the entire class period. Refrains from any of the following: sleeping, using any electronic device, texting, reading/doing other non-theatre-related material, excessive talking on non-theatre-related conversations.

#### **80 Points B**

Actively engages in theatre activity of assignment with self or group for 40-45 minutes of class period. Refrains from any of the following: sleeping, using any electronic device, texting, reading/doing other non-theatre-related material, excessive talking on non-theatre-related conversations.

#### **70 Points C**

Actively engages in theatre activity of assignment with self or group for 30-40 minutes of class period. Refrains from any of the following: sleeping, using any electronic device, texting, reading/doing other non-theatre-related material, excessive talking on non-theatre-related conversations.

**THERE WILL BE NO D grades given for Learning Behavior**

#### **59 Points F**

Does not actively engage in class for 25 minutes or more, or was participating on one or more of the following activities: sleeping, using an electronic device, texting, reading/doing other non-theatre-related material, excessive talking on non-theatre-related conversations.

### **Theater Facility – Freedoms & Restrictions**

Some of the work for this class will not be done in the classroom. On certain occasions, we will be rehearsing or performing in the Auditorium. You will be required to stay with the class **AT ALL TIMES**. You must have permission from me to enter the backstage area or the balcony. If you are not in a designated area at a given time, you will be given a disciplinary referral and your parents will be contacted.

## **Mr. Buino’s Classroom Expectations, Rules, Procedures and Consequences**

The expectations, rules, procedures and consequences of my classroom are intended to keep the classroom environment safe, orderly, and productive. Please respect the rules so that we can maximize learning time together. The rules are not hard to follow, nor are any of them “out of the ordinary.” They are simply expected behaviors for high school students in this classroom. If you have any questions about any of these rules, or why they are in place, you have the right to find out – please ask me as soon as possible. There should never be a rule that does not have a purpose! Thank you for your cooperation!

### **CLASS EXPECTATIONS**

#### **6. Respect yourself, the teacher & others**

- ★ Show respect for the teacher, yourself and others at all times.
- ★ Respect others’ property. Avoid touching or writing on anything that does not belong to you (including desks, textbooks, teacher’s belongings, walls, chalkboard, etc.). Don’t expect that others will clean up your messes. Please pick-up after yourself.
- ★ Respect yourself and the rest of us by using appropriate language.
- ★ Wear your school uniform and ID.
- ★ Be a kind person.

#### **7. Put forth your best effort at all times**

- ★ Always do your own best work.
- ★ Put learning ahead of getting good grades.
- ★ Put quality ahead of just getting it done.

#### **8. Be prepared for class each day with all necessary materials:**

- ★ Your Drama Reflection Journal (to be stored in the classroom)
- ★ Class folder (to be stored in the classroom)
- ★ Pens (blue or black), and pencils
- ★ Highlighters for emphasizing important text

- ★ A planner to help keep you organized - the most successful students are organized.

## 9. Follow directions when given

- ★ When directions are given, do your best to follow them the first time.
- ★ If you are confused or have questions, ask. I would rather have you stop class to clarify than be off task while everyone else is working.

## 5. Pay attention, participate and ask questions

- ★ Engage in what is going on in the classroom.
- ★ If you have a question, ask it! Otherwise, I might not know until the test that you didn't understand something.
- ★ There are no stupid questions. If you are wondering about it, someone else in the class is too.
- ★ Be proactive about your learning and don't be afraid to ask for help.
- ★ If you feel most comfortable waiting until after class, that is okay, too, but do keep communication open between us.

## 6. Preserve a positive learning environment

- ★ Student actions that interfere with teaching or learning in the classroom will NOT be tolerated.
- ★ Use class time to learn drama/theatre. Please do not spend your time grooming, sleeping, talking, writing notes, playing cards, listening to your music, text-messaging friends, or doing work for other classes.
- ★ Minimize classroom interruptions by arriving to class on time and not leaving the classroom during the hour.

## 7. Take responsibility for your actions

- ★ If you are confronted about a rule infraction, own up to it. Don't deny it, lie about it, or blame someone else.
- ★ Take responsibility for missed assignments.
- ★ All CPS Code of Student Conduct rules will be enforced. Please read your handbook.
- ★ Students that choose to break these rules, choose to have points taken away from their learning behavior grade, and face the possibility of additional consequences.

## CLASS RULES

### 1. Turn in your cell phones at the beginning of class OR MAKE THEM DISAPPEAR

**INCENTIVE:** The use of electronic devices (CD players, iPods, handheld games, mini-TVs or personal DVD players, cell phones, pagers, etc.) is NOT permitted in my classroom UNLESS I give you permission to use your phone for *instructional purposes only*. Students who choose to turn their cell phones in at the beginning of class (before the second bell rings) will earn 10 extra credit points towards their Learning Behavior Grade every day they turn in their phone.

Students who do not wish to turn their phones may keep their cell phones but the devices should be turned off and invisible during the class period. Students whose phones remain invisible and silent throughout the entire class will not lose any points from their grade.

**CONSEQUENCES:** If I see or hear your phone it will be taken away until the end of the period and you will lose 25 points from your learning behavior grade. Your phone will be returned at the end of the period. After the 3rd offense you will be sent to the Dean's Office and Parent-Conference will be arranged for each subsequent offense.

Refusal to turn over the cell phone the teacher will be treated as insubordinate behavior. Security will be called and immediate action will be taken by the Dean.

## **2. No food or drink, except water**

- ★ You may drink bottled of water in the classroom. If a spill occurs, please clean it up immediately and inform the teacher.
- ★ No other food or beverage is permitted without a doctor's note.

## **3. Arrive to class on time & ready to learn**

- ★ Before the second bell rings drop off your homework in the HOMEWORK bin and grab your Theatre Reflection Journal.
- ★ When the bell rings, you need to be sitting in your assigned seat.
- ★ You should immediately begin on the warm up activity or journal entry.
- ★ Be "physically" and "mentally" present in the classroom.

## **4. Never line up at the door before dismissal**

- ★ Please remain in your seat until I have dismissed you. Never line up at the door before dismissal. Remember, I dismiss you, not the bell.

## **5. Do not cheat, plagiarize, or copy work**

- ★ Cheating is completely unacceptable. If I see you cheating on any assignment... even for another class... I will give you a zero and report the incident to the other teacher as well as your assistant principal and parents.
- ★ Plagiarism (copying work from another source without giving proper credit) is completely unacceptable. If you plagiarize on any assignment you will earn a "0" on that assignment with no opportunity to re-do the work for credit.

## **6. Use polite and appropriate language**

- ★ Offensive, derogatory, and profane terms are not tolerated. In order to have a safe classroom environment where all students feel comfortable, no put downs, swear words, or slang words with demeaning connotations will be accepted. Remember, if you don't have something nice to say, don't say it at all!

## **7. Do your best work & turn it in on time**

- ★ Remember that the work that you turn-in is a reflection of your effort on the assignment. Think about the following expectations when you are preparing an assignment that I will review:
- ★ Write your full name and period on all assignments.
- ★ All work must be neatly done and legible in order to receive credit. If you print, capitalize properly (do not write using all capital letters).
- ★ Never turn any assignments in with the "fringes" from spiral notebooks on the paper or you will earn a "0" for that assignment. Likewise, assignments that are bunched up, crinkled, illegible, sloppy, or contain stains or holes are unacceptable.
- ★ ALL MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS, ESSAYS & PROJECTS MUST BE TYPED. Final draft format for typewritten work is as follows: 12-point font, double-spaced, 1" margins, and use a "normal font" such as Arial, Courier, Times New Roman, etc. (nothing too difficult to read and use a font that prints using capital and lower-case letters).

## **CLASS PROCEDURES**

### **1. Turn in homework to the proper bin**

- ★ Homework is due at the beginning of the period when you come to class. I will not accept work completed once class begins. Turn in your homework to your hour bin. Turn absent/late work into the absent/late work bin.

### **2. Study buddy**

- ★ *Introduce yourself to your study buddy.*
- ★ *Exchange contact information:*
  - ★ *E-mail address*
  - ★ *Home telephone #*
  - ★ *Cell phone # (optional)*
- ★ *Each day, upon entering the class, check to see if your study buddy is present. If he/she is absent, fill out a class log form outlining the day's agenda. Also, be sure to take an extra copy of all handouts that are distributed, putting your buddy's name on each extra copy. Then, you can either 1) place all work in the absentee folder or 2) hold on to it and deliver it to your study buddy upon his / her return.*

### **When you are absent:**

- ★ *Check with your study buddy to see what you missed. You can contact them via telephone or e-mail or simply see your buddy when you return to school. (Students who are excessively absent must make alternative arrangements with me.)*
- ★ *If your study buddy placed the handouts in the Absentee folder, be sure to retrieve them.*

### **3. Sign the tardy book & put pass in box**

- ★ If you are tardy, you are expected to have a pass. If you come to class tardy without a pass, you will be allowed in class. However, you must sign the tardy book and write down where you are coming from and who sent you. You will lose 25 points from your daily Learning Behavior Grade and you will have to meet with me after class to follow up on your missing pass.
- ★ You are expected to sign in if you arrive to class after the bell has rung and sign out if you leave class before the end of the hour. Be sure to note on the sign in sheet whether or not you have a pass. If you do, leave it in the tardy pass box (make sure your name is on the pass).
- ★ Excessive tardies will affect your learning readiness grade and have other consequences, such as detentions, etc.

#### **4. Pick up after yourself before you leave**

- ★ Take all of your belongings, pick up any scrap papers around you, and put your desk back in line before you leave each day.

#### **5. Get missed work from the MISSING WORK bin, talk to your study buddy, then ask the teacher**

- ★ Attendance is essential for optimal learning. Being on time and present and class physically and mentally will be part of your overall grade. You may not be excused from my class by another teacher without first seeking my permission.
- ★ If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain any missed classwork. Begin by looking for missed handouts in the ABSENT bin pertaining to your class period. Then ask another student (your study buddy) what you missed. Follow-up with the teacher if necessary.
- ★ Make arrangements to take quizzes and tests immediately. It is your responsibility to make these arrangements, I will not and cannot track you down. If you do not make-up quizzes in a timely manner (before graded quizzes are returned to the students who were present), you will earn a “zero” on the quiz or test.
- ★ UNEXCUSED absences on the day of an assignment, test, quiz, project, presentation, paper, etc. will result in a zero.

### **POSITIVE CONSEQUENCES**

1. Praise from the teacher.
2. Earn a good grade.
3. Safe learning environment.
4. Occasional treats.

### **NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES**

1. Verbal warning.
2. Meeting with the teacher after-class. Log the event in Student Logger.
3. Phone call home to parent or guardian. Log the event in Student Logger.
4. Referral to Dean’s Office for additional support. Log the event in Student Logger.

*\* Serious offenses can, at the teacher's discretion, result in more severe consequences regardless of previous steps taken. Any infraction of the rules may affect your learning readiness grade. It can also be cause for further action at the teacher's discretion.*

## **A letter to my theatre students and their guardians:**

Students, this will be a busy year for you in this class. All I ask is that you are open to all activities and not be afraid to show your abilities. All people have the ability to do something in all areas of theatre. This course is designed to help you decide in what area you are most suited to participate. **Remember that this is required class for graduation, so let's work together to make it successful and productive.**

Participation is the key to success in this course. If you participate in all activities and give to the best of your abilities, then you will not have trouble passing this course. Please feel free to try out for Drama Club or Louder Than A Bomb (our poetry slam team). These are great opportunities to become involved with a variety of students and to explore many talents you may not realize you have.

Parents and Guardians, it is my goal to make this class a positive experience as your child explores the theatre arts. The class expectations are to ensure a classroom atmosphere conducive to learning. Please look over this syllabus, sign below and have your child return it by Friday, September 9th.

I look forward to working with your child!

Sincerely,  
Michael Buino

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I have read and understand the expectations of this class. I agree to follow the rules and to respect others as we explore the Theatre Arts together.

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Student Name (PRINTED)

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Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Student Email (CPS EMAIL)

I have read and understand the expectations of this class. I understand my student is expected to follow the rules and to respect others as we explore the Theatre Arts together.

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Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the number where you wish to be contacted.    Home        OR        Cell

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Parent Phone

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Parent Email