

Theatre Arts, Part 1

Course Outline & Objectives

Course Description:

In Theatre Arts, Part 1, students will explore the foundations of theatre as a live, collaborative art form. They will learn essential theatre vocabulary, stage conventions, audience etiquette, movement and blocking, and the elements that work together to create a performance. Students will also examine the history of theatre across cultures and time periods, from ancient Greek theatre to modern performance styles. Throughout the course, students will develop introductory performance skills through voice, movement, pantomime, character development, script analysis, and scene work. They will also learn about the rehearsal and audition process, collaboration with scene partners, and the roles of performers, directors, designers, and technical crews in bringing a theatrical production to life.

Credits - One Semester (0.5 Carnegie unit / CA: 5 credits) | Prerequisites: None

Course Outline

Unit 1: Curtains Up! An Introduction to Theatre Arts

- 1.1 Defining the Drama: What Is Theatre?
- 1.2 It Takes Two: The Stage and Its Spectators
- 1.3 All the World's a Stage... and These Are the Words
- 1.4 What Makes the Magic? The Elements of Theatre
- 1.5 Hit Your Mark: Movement & Blocking on Stage
- 1.6 Not Just a Stage: Where Theatre Happens

Unit 2: From Coliseums to Broadway Lights: Theater's Time Trek

- 2.1 Greek Theatre: Where Masks & Drama Took the Stage
- 2.2 Roman Theatre: "Borrowed" Scripts & Empty Seats
- 2.3 Medieval Theatre: From Church Steps to Street Stages
- 2.4 Renaissance Theatre: Improv, Big Characters & Commedia
- 2.5 Elizabethan Theatre: Shakespeare Takes the Stage
- 2.6 Asian Theatre: Masks, Music & Movement
- 2.7 Rise of Western Theatre: Melodrama & Major Movements
- 2.8 Modern Theatre: From Ensemble Experiments to Epic Productions

National Core Arts Standards (NCAS)

In Unit 1 students will:

Define theatre as a live, shared experience between performers and an audience.

Use foundational theatre vocabulary, including stage directions, blocking, and monologue.

Identify the elements of theatre and explain how they shape a performance.

Interpret basic stage movement and blocking to support storytelling.

Compare performance spaces and explain how actors adapt to each setting.

[TH:Cr1, TH:Cr2, TH:Cr3, TH:Re8, TH:Re9, TH:Cn10, TH:Cn11]

In Unit 2 students will:

Describe major developments in theatre from ancient civilizations to modern performance.

Explain how culture, religion, politics, and entertainment have influenced theatre.

Compare theatre traditions, styles, and storytelling methods across cultures and time periods.

Analyze how acting, staging, and dramatic structure have changed over time.

Explain how historical theatre traditions continue to influence modern theatre, film, and television.

[TH:Cr2, TH:Re8, TH:Re9, TH:Cn10, TH:Cn11]

Course Outline

Unit 3: Move It, Mean It, Make Them Feel It

- 3.1 Movement Matters: Exploring Physical Choices
- 3.2 More Than Words: Pantomime & Physical Expression
- 3.3 Clowning Around: Humor, Play & Physical Character
- 3.4 Protect Your Instrument: Voice Strength & Stamina
- 3.5 Say It Like You Mean It: Tone, Emotion & Projection
- 3.6 Bring It All Together: Body, Voice & Impact

Unit 4: Inside the Character: From Lines to Life

- 4.1 More Than Just Lines: Reading for Character
- 4.2 Make It Real: Body, Voice & Emotional Choices
- 4.3 React & Relate: Creating Connection on Stage
- 4.4 The Want & the Wall: Goals and Obstacles
- 4.5 Behavior Tells the Story: Motivation in Motion

Unit 5: From Warm-Up to Spotlight: The Performer's Playbook

- 5.1 Stage Ready: Body, Voice & Mind
- 5.2 Auditions: Step Up & Stand Out
- 5.3 Character Chemistry: Making It Real
- 5.4 Rehearsals: Trust the Process, Trust the Team
- 5.5 Performance: Lights. Courage. Action.
- 5.6 Curtain Call: Review, Reflect & Renew

National Core Arts Standards (NCAS)

In Unit 3 students will:

Use movement, posture, gesture, and body language to communicate character and emotion.
Apply pantomime, mime, and clowning techniques to tell stories without dialogue.
Use breath support, projection, articulation, tone, pitch, and inflection effectively.
Explain how physical and vocal choices influence audience understanding.
Combine voice, movement, and emotional intention to create engaging performances.

[TH:Cr3, TH:Pr5, TH:Pr6, TH:Cn11]

In Unit 4 students will:

Analyze scripts to identify character traits, relationships, motivations, and emotions.
Use voice, movement, facial expression, and mannerisms to create believable characters.
Apply active listening and truthful reactions to build authentic relationships on stage.
Identify a character's objective, obstacles, tactics, motivation, and subtext.
Use script analysis, feedback, and specific actions to strengthen performance choices.

[TH:Cr1, TH:Cr3, TH:Pr4, TH:Pr6, TH:Re7, TH:Re8, TH:Re9, TH:Cn10, TH:Cn11]

In Unit 5 students will:

Use physical, vocal, and mental warm-ups to prepare for performance.
Apply audition techniques, character analysis, and professional etiquette.
Use collaboration, active listening, and emotional responsiveness in scene work.
Describe the rehearsal process and demonstrate appropriate rehearsal expectations.
Reflect on performance growth and identify ways to continue participating in theatre.

[TH:Cr3, TH:Pr5, TH:Pr6, TH:Re7, TH:Re9, TH:Cn10, TH:Cn11]