

MONTE VISTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
VIPA 1628 Theatre Arts I
Course Syllabus

Course Description:

An exploration of character development and improvisation with an introduction to theatre history and experience in theatrical performance. This course will engage students through grade level appropriate vocabulary, an introductory study of character development, improvisation training and performance in an effort to improve public speaking skills while providing an opportunity for artistic expression. The course will culminate each semester with a performance to showcase learned skills. This full-year course addresses National Core and California State Standards for grades nine through twelve through a Biblical lens. The course requires one evening rehearsal and one evening performance per year. Prerequisites: none.

Curricular Mapping:

This class provides foundational character development training, improvisation skills building, practice in adherence to due dates and accountability to peers. These skills are crucial to progressing to an intermediate or advanced level skills class and to performance standards in academics and the professional industry of theatre.

Course Objectives:

Upon the successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Recite memorized lines from a script.
2. Complete a written character profile.
3. Use grade level appropriate vocabulary to discuss aspects of theatre.
4. Improvise dialogue when given specific parameters for a character.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of grade level appropriate aspects of theatre history.

Texts:

Your necessary digital texts for this class will be part of a “Required Course Materials Fee” thru the EdTech bookstore. This is a bundle purchase of digital texts for your full schedule of classes and will be available for purchase after 7/18/16. For further instructions please visit the [16-17 School Year](#) icon on the MVCS homepage. Please note: some courses may require additional purchases outside of the course materials fee.

Course Outline and Requirements:

This course is a foundational level Theatre Arts class. The course will focus primarily on breaking down barriers to creativity on stage and learning to develop a stage character. It will

include basic instruction in improvisation through various in-class exercises and activities, analyzing characters, creating a character profile, and performances of theatrical material.

Due to the participatory nature of the class, a daily participation grade will apply. In addition to participation, students will be required to complete the following assignments:

1. Perform memorized theatrical pieces, such as monologues and scenes, for the class.
2. Complete a theatrical critique.
3. Complete character development sheets.
4. Attend one performance of the fall play and spring musical.
5. Attend or perform in the fall showcase.

Grading:

<u>Grade Book Categories</u>		<u>Semester Weighted Grading Configuration</u>	
Participation	30%	Quarter	50%
Performance	35%	Quarter	50%
Assignments	35%		

Explanation of Grade Book Categories:

1. **Participation** = 30%
 - a. 5 points per day
 - b. Participation points can be made up for excused/extended absences. An additional assignment will be given upon request on a case by case basis.
 - c. Extended absences must be pre-approved through a signed Advance Absence Request form (available in Student Services) to qualify for makeup work.
2. **Performance** = 35%
3. **Assignments** = 35%
4. **Late Work** – This class requires group participation. Most assignments affect additional students. For this reason, late work may be assessed a penalty of 10% per day for major assignments and a flat 50% for minor assignments. Late penalties will be assessed at the discretion of the instructor.
5. **On Task Work** – When time is given in-class to work on assignments, the student is expected to be on-task. When students are off-task (e.g. playing games, messaging, working on other courses, etc.), the instructor has the discretion to deduct points from the assignment’s total point value, up to 50%.
6. **Homework Expectations** – For work requiring an outside of class commitment the following will apply:

- a. Small projects = up to two hours.
- b. Theatre Appreciation Paper = up to two hours over a period of one to two weeks.
- c. Memorization of lines = dependent on the student. In most cases, at least one to two weeks are allowed for small roles and up to one month is allowed for large roles.
- d. Interpretive Presentation = 5-10 hours. For this project, a minimum of two to three weeks is allowed for creation. Some work is done in class.

High School Standard Grading Policy:

Please refer to the policy and procedures posted online in our Student Handbook.

Class Policies:

Attendance – In-class participation on a daily basis is crucial in acting. Not only does absence affect the individual student, it affects the class as a whole. Therefore, this class includes a daily participation grade.

Tardiness – Tardiness slows down the progress of the class as a whole and puts the tardy student at a disadvantage. Students must be in class and ready to work when the bell rings. Tardies will be tallied and reported according to Monte Vista policy.

Additional Guidelines

1. Students are expected to be respectful to faculty, staff, and fellow students at all times.
2. Students are not allowed in the Theatre Arts woodshop or technical booth unless specifically assigned to a duty in one of the aforementioned areas.
3. Failure to follow the aforementioned guidelines will result in disciplinary action.

School Policies and Expected Student Learning Results (ESLRs):

Students are subject to all academic policies of the school as found in the Parent-Student Handbook. Furthermore, it is each student's responsibility to read and follow all academic policies of Monte Vista Christian School. In addition to addressing each ESLR every year, we target a specific ESLR each academic year for particular focus.

Tips for the Students:

1. **“There are no small parts, only small actors.”** Milan Kundera
2. Communicate with the instructor. Advance notification of absences and other issues is the best way to assure your work will receive full credit.
3. Be willing to participate and try new things. Acting is more fun when you are not worried about what people think.

Miscellaneous:

All Studio MV students are encouraged to attend the California State Thespian Festival and to audition for the fall and spring productions.