



DRAM-1310-342CL

Theatre Appreciation

Spring 2024, Santa Fe High School, Auditorium

Monday & Wednesday 7:35 a.m.-8:55 a.m.

Instructor Information:

Name: Peter D. Kinser
Email: Peter.kinser@sfsisd.org
Phone: 409-927-3187

Student hours and location:

By appointment only. To make an appointment, please contact Mr. Kinser via email.

Required Textbook: There is no required textbook for this course.

Course Description: A general survey of the major fields of theatre arts for students who have a limited experience or knowledge. The course emphasizes a mixture of hands-on experience and history. This course is a study and application of the various activities and methods of theatrical practice. It includes discussions, assignments, projects, and lectures designed to analyze and evaluate all aspects of the theatre experience: scripts, design, acting, directing, staging, history and criticism. Attendance at representative plays is required.

Course requirements: (including description of any special projects or assignments):

Dailey Engagement/Attendance	20%	The grading scale is as follows: 90 – 100 = A 80 – 89 = B 70 – 79 = C 65 – 69 = D 64 - below = F
Play Reviews (2)	20%	
Quizzes (8)/Video assignments (3)	20%	
Group Creative Project	20%	
Final Exam	20%	

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

Grades will be determined based on qualitative (projects) and quantitative (papers and exams) formulas. 20% of your grade will be based on answering direct questions on an exam based on presentations and hand-outs. 20% of your grade will be based on two written reviews. 60% of your grade will be determined by completion of group and individual projects, or quizzes, which demonstrate a working knowledge of the concepts explored in the course.

Play Review Assignment Detail: You must see a performance of SFHS or COM Theatre productions. Optional extra credit for additional performance reviews. To get credit for attending you MUST say you are in Kinser’s Theatre Class and sign next to your name.

The best reviews for this purpose are approximately two (2) typewritten, double-space pages. It should be a discussion of what you experienced and how it affected you. The following is an OUTLINE of topics which should be addressed in your review. Your point of view and critical thinking skills will be the focus of your grade.

- I. Introductory Paragraph, including play and title
- II. Dramatic Values
 - a. Story/Plot)
 - b. Theme/Idea
- III. Personal reaction (A brief paragraph stating honestly what you think about the play)
- IV. Production Values a.
 - a. Scenery
 - b. Lighting
 - c. Costumes
 - d. Sound (music, special effects, etc.)
- V. Evaluate the Acting (use actors' names provided in the program, not the characters' names)
- VI. Identify and Discuss Contributions of the Director
- VII. Conclusion

Group Project Assignment Detail: The purpose of this project is that students will try their hand at collaborating creatively on a theatre production proposal and carrying out required elements depending on the roles selected. Creating theatre is a group endeavor, both from a creative and a business perspective.

Content Disclosure Courses within COM Theatre deal with works of dramatic literature, both on the page and on the stage. Sometimes the situations, actions, and language of these works can be off-putting or offensive to some students, who might be offended on such grounds as sexual explicitness, value judgements, violence, or blasphemy. As the course is devoted to the principle of free expression, artistic and otherwise, and it is not the course's practice to censor these works on any of these grounds, students who might feel unduly distressed or made uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course or speak with the instructor immediately.

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy: This course will follow all SFHS grading policies guidelines and SFHS STUDENT HANDBOOK.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to maintain good attendance.

Communicating with your instructor: ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your SFISD email. (address at the top of the syllabus. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. (Faculty may add additional statement requiring monitoring and communication expectations via REMIND)

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Analyze theatre through written responses to play texts and/or live performance.	Communication, Thinking and Responsibility	Critical Social Play reviews, exams and experiential project-based assignments
2. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of theatre history and dramatic works.	Communication, Thinking and Responsibility	Critical Social Quizzes, exams, individual and group presentations and experiential project-based assignments
3. Describe the collaborative nature of theatre arts.	Communication, Thinking and Responsibility	Critical Social Quizzes, exams, individual and group presentations and experiential project-based assignments
3. Demonstrate the relationship of the arts to everyday life as well as broader historical and social contexts.	Communication, Thinking, Teamwork and Social Responsibility	Critical Quizzes, exams, individual and group presentations and experiential project-based assignments
4. Participate and experience the art of theatre.	Communication, Thinking, Teamwork and Social Responsibility	Critical Quizzes, exams, individual and group presentations and experiential project-based assignments

Content Disclosure:

Courses within COM Theatre deal with works of dramatic literature, both on the page and on the stage. Sometimes the situations, actions, and language of these works can be off-putting, activating, triggering, or offensive to some students on such grounds as sexual explicitness, value judgements, violence, or blasphemy. As the course is devoted to the principle of free expression, artistic and otherwise, and it is not the course's practice to censor these works on any of these grounds, students who might feel unduly distressed or made uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course or speak with the instructor immediately. The instructor will provide more specific content disclosures before engaging with specific works.

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy: Quizzes and video assignments automatically lose half a letter grade for each day the assignment is late. Make-up assignments are not permitted outside of emergency situations. Performances and group presentations cannot be made up due to scheduling. All subject to instructor approval.

Engagement Clarifications and Grading: The most important part of this class is showing up to the class. The in-class lectures and activities are the major tool for learning this craft. The student artist's questions and input are imperative to the learning process.

The student will receive an engagement grade for each class period on a point scale from “0” (lowest) to “5” (highest). These will add up to form the student’s Engagement grade for the semester. If absent, the grade is a “0” for the day. 5=A, 4=B, 3=C, 2=D, 1=F, 0=absent.

Engagement is not about simply going through the motions of “participation,” but requires you to be alert, prepared, and collaborative. To receive a 5 for the day, please offer either 2 questions or statements about the work in class. You can always email your comments or questions to the instructor should you wish to not speak out loud.

Attendance Policy: Timeliness and presence are crucial to excellence in the performing arts. Each student is allowed two (2) absences before your final grade is affected. Please arrive on time. If you do not feel well, do not come to class. If you have extenuating circumstances that affect your ability to follow these policies, you need to speak with the instructor BEFORE being late or absent. If you are impacted by COVID or Monkeypox, communicate with your instructor as soon as you are able, and modifications/accommodations will be worked out.

Communicating with your instructor: ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. Please do not use social media to communicate with me about classes.

Academic Dishonesty: Students are subject to all SFHS Student Code of Conduct expectations. See SFHS student handbook for further information.

Civility in the Classroom

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Higher Education is challenging, and new to many of you. We are also in an unprecedented time, and many of you are facing difficult circumstances. We will discuss subjective works of art and the contexts in which they are created. Differences of opinion are welcomed and encouraged, but respect towards everyone in the classroom at all times is the expectation.

In the case of a violation of this policy, the instructor will talk with the student about the inappropriate behavior immediately and will follow-up after class or with a scheduled meeting. In the case of a second incident, the instructor will refer the student to the department head who will schedule a meeting with the student. At this meeting or any subsequent meeting, the chairperson will inform the student that repeated deviations from expected classroom behavior will result in removal from the class. If a third incident occurs, the instructor will ask the student to leave the class. If the student refuses, the Campus Police will be called to remove the student. The student will be immediately dropped from the class and reported to the student Office of Student Conduct.

A Word about BOUNDARIES:

At COM Theatre we strive to champion a professional atmosphere of non-judgmental inclusion, open communication, and enthusiastic consent so that all involved can feel free to be a pro-active

participant in their own artistic growth. It is crucial that you gain an ever-evolving awareness of your own personal boundaries, so that you may teach those boundaries to us – in order to assure the personal comfort and safety of yourself, your partners and the ensemble. Please feel free to inform instructors of any physical or emotional limitations that may hinder your performance of any techniques/material presented in class so that they may be appropriately adapted. In performance-oriented classroom or production situations, it may sometimes be necessary during the use of techniques and exercises for the Instructor/Director to interact physically with students or for students to interact physically with one another. This is part of the learning process, and any contact is intended to be professional and clinical in nature. If at any time a student is uncomfortable with the idea or the practice of that physical contact, the student will be given an opportunity to voice their concern and the need for adaptation will immediately be respected without fear of reprisal, reprimand, or dismissal

Children in the Classroom:

I hope that you will feel comfortable disclosing your student-parent status to me. This is the first step in my being able to accommodate any special needs that arise. Please know that your parenthood status is also protected by Title IX. While I maintain the same high expectations for all students in my classes regardless of parenting status, I am happy to problem-solve with you in a way that makes you feel supported as you strive for school-parenting balance. Thank you for the diversity you bring to our classroom.

Student Concerns: If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Dr. Paul Boyd Fine Arts Department Chair at pboyd@com.edu or 409.933.8342.

Course Outline:

This outline is subject to change during the semester. Students will be notified immediately of any changes and will be given the appropriate time and accommodations in the event of those changes.

Week 1-Introduction to class, Review Course Syllabus, Classroom Expectations, discuss course requirements and projects. Students will choose one page of written material (a poem). Handwrite it onto paper. Present to instructor, be quizzed on comprehension. Student will present material (formally) to class following presentational expectations of physical, vocal and comprehensive expectations. Student will learn various methods of memorization, rehearse and present material a second time, memorized and evaluated via a presentational rubric. Students will also be evaluated on their audience participation and feedback.

Week 2- Students will finish any presentations. Students will learn about pantomime and story structure. Assignments will include script scoring, presentation of individual pantomime, and audience participation and feedback

Week 3-Students will finish any individual pantomime presentations. Students will explore the concept of improvisation and scripted monologues. This weeks graded evaluation will be based on participation

Week 4- Students will present memorized monologues and be evaluated based on provided rubric and audience participation and feedback.

Week 5- Students will discuss and read scripted material including duet scenes and group scenes. Student will choose partners, scripted material and learn character analysis. This weeks evaluation will be based on participation.

Week 6- Students will learn about stage directions and standing positions. Students will proceed to block their group scenes and rehearse in anticipation of formal presentation.

Week 7- Students will begin Group Project activity, this activity will include Character analysis and development, Script structure, including protagonist and antagonist, scripted exposition, conflict and climax/resolution. Students will begin crafting scripts. Evaluation will be ongoing, portfolio based on project work.

Week 8- Students will continue Group Project activity, this activity will include Character analysis and development, Script structure, including protagonist and antagonist, scripted exposition, conflict and climax/resolution. Students will continue crafting scripts. Evaluation will be ongoing, portfolio based on project work.

Week 9-Scenery Costumes

Week 10-Exploring Theatre Lighting

Week 11-Rehearsal of group material

Week 15- Final Group Project Presentations Final peer evaluations and presentation materials due at presentation

Week 16- Presentation of Group Projects, Individual Feedback/Critique/Observation papers due.

Institutional Policies and Guidelines

Grade Appeal Process: Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2023-2024_v2.pdf. *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

Academic Success & Support Services: College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

ADA Statement: Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Kimberly Lachney at 409-933-8919 or klachney@com.edu. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

Textbook Purchasing Statement: A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Withdrawal Policy: Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a “W” grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1st 8-week session is February 28. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 22. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is May 1. The last date to withdraw for spring mini session is May 29.

FN Grading: The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

Early Alert Program: The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

Resources to Help with Stress:

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at deanofstudents@com.edu or communityresources@com.edu.