

Advanced Theater Ensemble

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Derek Jensen

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Course Description: A course designed for students to develop as theatre professionals, this course will provide students an opportunity to further expose themselves to theatre works through the study of famous playwrights and/or the process of choosing scripts for production, and further enhance their skills as theatre performers, technicians, and designers through putting together their own show. Some work outside the classroom will be required. ATE is considered a vital part of the theater department at THS, therefore, in addition to class productions and projects, ATE may be asked to help support the theater department, if necessary.

Course Requirements: Students are expected to be meaningful participants in all classroom activities and productions, participation points will be a significant percent of final semester grade. Attendance and active involvement in class productions is mandatory.

Productions and Projects:

- Playwright Project
- ATE Showcase
- One Act Festival
- ATE Show

Playwright Project: This project will focus on a selection of playwrights. In small groups, you will be given or choose a playwright. You will research the “life and times” of your playwright, and present your information to the class. Then, you and your group will read plays written by your playwright, and select a scene from one of them to perform.

ATE Showcase: Have that dream scene, role, song, etc. you’ve ALWAYS wanted to perform? Here’s your chance! For our ATE Showcase students will select any scene, short play, musical (theater) number, etc. they wish, and will prepare it for performance in a class Showcase. As a class we will also select a One Act, or a couple of short plays to perform as part of the showcase.

One Act Festival: In December the Oregon Shakespeare Festival comes to Topeka. There is typically a city one act festival that coincides with their arrival. We will select, rehearse, and perform a one act for the festival. We may also hold an additional evening performance and/or an in-class invited dress rehearsal.

ATE Show: This year students will choose the script we will produce. This, while low budget, will be a “full blown” production, 100% designed, performed, and constructed (perhaps with some help from the stagecraft classes) by ATE students. While the performance will take place of an evening, our goal will be to get all production work done in class. If necessary, some work may be required outside normal class time.

Late Work: With minimal exception, Late Work will not be accepted. Being a course dedicated to theatrical production and performance, many assignment deadlines are in place in order to successfully put on quality productions and are non-negotiable.