



## Theatre Arts I Syllabus Burbank High School 2024-2025

**Instructor: Ms. Wisniewski**  
**Department: Fine Arts**

**Course #: 6441**  
**Conference Period: 6<sup>th</sup>**

### Course Summary

Theatre I is a **performance-based** course that will introduce students to the world of theatre. Students will learn basic acting techniques, the role of the actor in interpreting dramatic literature, the historical evolution of performance styles (theatre history), and an introduction to stagecraft.

### Expectations

I have three guidelines for my classroom:

- 1. Follow directions**
- 2. Do your work**
- 3. Be nice**

Together we will determine what these rules look like in our classroom.

### Coursework and Grades

The breakdown is as follows:

- 40% - Assessments**
- 60% - Assignments**

You will receive rubrics for every assignment/performance ahead of time.

Since many of you are 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders, you will also receive IB MYP grades based on the Luther Burbank IB World High School Assessment Policy.

### Assignment Grades:

#### Warm-ups/Journal Entries

There will be a daily warm-up activity. It could be a journal reflection, a small project, or a questionnaire. Notes taken during class will go into an interactive journal that will be graded.

#### Character Analysis

As we prepare for scenes/plays, we will work on developing characters. There will be several ways in which we do this: character questionnaires and character biographies, for example. You will need to use your imagination to create your characters.

## **Memorization**

You will need to memorize lines for the scenes/plays you perform. Use the rehearsal time in class to work on learning your lines and you won't have any homework.

## **Performance Review**

You will be asked to watch and review one **theatrical or dance performance per semester**. Burbank will have several performances that you will be able to attend. You may also see shows at other schools, churches, and local theatres.

This review will be a written paper, at least one page long, that may follow a specific format I will provide you.

If you do not attend a live show, you will have an opportunity to read a play and present a report to the class on the play as an alternative activity.

## **Participation/Rehearsal**

Your participation grade is based on your participation in warm-ups and whole-class and small-group activities. You are expected to be on-task and follow directions for our warm-ups and theatre games/activities/rehearsals.

Rehearsal is time in class for you to practice how you are going to move and speak on stage for your performance. It is an important part of the production process.

**Talking to a friend, sitting out, not working with partners as a team, or being on your phone during class are some ways that your participation/rehearsal grade will drop.**

## **Playwriting/Scene Work/ Films**

You will be writing one-act plays during the second semester. All the writing activities will be graded and performed for an audience. You will also be performing in and writing short scenes and films.

## **Assessment Grades:**

### **Projects**

During the year, you will be asked to complete research projects on theatre history. **Any plagiarism will result in a zero, parent contact, and potentially further administrative action following the Luther Burbank IB World High School Academic Honesty Policy.**

### **Performances/Quizzes/Tests**

We will be performing scenes and short plays for the members of this class and possibly for other classes.

You will be tested on your lines through the rehearsal process as well as theatre terms and concepts that we cover in class. Students will receive a test every three weeks and will complete a semester exam for this class which will be a performance.

## Policy Information

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### Tardy Policy/Passes/Food/Restrooms

Please arrive on time and in compliance with the dress code. If the door is closed, you will be marked tardy upon your arrival and will need to sign in on the tardy log located by the door.

Passes will only be issued after the first 10 minutes of class and until the last 10 minutes of class.

You may bring a tightly closed water bottle into class but absolutely **NO FOOD**. Eat before the bell rings and before you come into class. Food found in class will be confiscated.

### Phones/Technology

Phones will be collected as you enter class. Students may occasionally need their Chromebooks, but the majority of the written work in this class will be done in an interactive journal.

### Classroom Expectations

As a class, we will develop a respect agreement to identify behavior expectations. The students will be held accountable to these standards within the classroom.

### Tutoring

My tutoring hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. in room 3217 or by appointment. Please see me for a pass before you attend. My email address is [mwisniewski1@saisd.net](mailto:mwisniewski1@saisd.net) and I am more than happy to look at assignments or answer questions through electronic media.

Students may also attend a one-hour after-school rehearsal to make up class work or missed classes. Rehearsals start at 4:45 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays and at 2:30 pm on certain Fridays.

### Mandatory Supplies

- Composition book
- Pens AND Pencils
- Imagination ☺
- Highlighters
- Scripts (when applicable)

### MYP Unit Plans (Subject to adjustment throughout the year)

First Semester:

Unit One – “It’s Showtime!” – Warm-ups, etiquette, observation, mime, intro to improvisation  
Unit Two – “The Power of the Spoken Word” – Vocal warm-ups, puppets, improvisation, voice  
Unit Three – “Move Me” – Movement/blocking, content-less scenes, tech, rehearsal process  
Unit Four – “It’s All Greek to Me” – Greek theatre, origins of theatre, play production, mask  
Unit Five – “Who’s Line is it Anyway?” – Medieval and Renaissance theatre, improv

Second Semester:

Unit Six – “On My Own” – Monologue, dramatic structure/dramatic arc, characterization  
Unit Seven – “Let Me Tell You a Story” – Playwriting/Scene writing/Short Films  
Unit Eight – “Bring Me to Life” – Directing, props, painting, theatre jobs  
Unit Nine – “Putting it all Together” – Rehearsal process, critique, performance  
Unit Ten – “Glitz and Glamour” - Costume and/or makeup design

## **Resources**

Students will have access to our Canvas classroom where the course materials will be stored online. Students will have access to class presentations, materials, assignments, and assessments online.

If students are interested in working on the haunted house or participating in any of the school plays, please join the **Burbank Thespians Remind** by using this class code: **@73agb2**.

You may also contact me via my district email with any questions or concerns:

**[mwisniewski1@saisd.net](mailto:mwisniewski1@saisd.net)**

It is the policy of San Antonio ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Es norma del distrito de San Antonio no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, en sus programas, servicios o actividades vocacionales, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; el Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación, de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

**THEATRE I SYLLABUS ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM**

By signing this form, I acknowledge that I have reviewed the syllabus for Theatre I and understand the requirements and procedures associated with this course including:

- Phones will be secured for the duration of class time
- Students are required to review a play each semester.
- Class performances are a part of the grade for this class
- Line memorization is required and graded.
- Plagiarism will result in a zero on that assignment.

A digital copy of this syllabus will also be available online on Canvas and Ms. Wisniewski's teacher website, accessible through the Burbank homepage.

Thank you for your time and help in ensuring your student has a successful year.

Sincerely,

Michele Wisniewski

Please return this acknowledgment by August 19, 2024.

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**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred Method of Contact (Please circle one.):**      Email                  Phone                  Text

**Best time to contact:**

Before school      During the school day      After school      Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_