**IB Theatre Arts SL/HL 2019-2020**

Mrs. Hannah Fry

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**Dear parents/guardians and students:**

Welcome to IB Theatre! “Theatre is a dynamic, collaborative and live art form. It is a practical subject that encourages discovery through experimentation, the taking of risks and the presentation of ideas to others. It results in the development of both theatre and life skills; the building of confidence, creativity, and working collaboratively.” – IB Theatre Guide

**THEATRE COURSE AIMS:**

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* Enjoy lifelong engagement with the arts
* Become informed, reflective, and critical practitioners in the arts
* Understand the dynamic and changing nature of the arts
* Explore and value the diversity of the arts across time, place, and cultures
* Express ideas with confidence and competence
* Develop perceptual and analytical skills
* Explore theatre is a variety of contexts and understand how these contexts inform practice
* Understand and engage in the process of transforming ideas into action
* Develop and apply theatre production, presentation, and performance skills, working both independently and collaboratively

**UNITS:**

First Semester

* The Ensemble & Acting Theory
* Devising Theatre & Collaborative Project IA
* Ancient Theatre
* Design & Directing Fundamentals with Director’s Notebook EA

Second Semester

* Italian Renaissance Theatre
* Research Presentation EA
* Scenic & Lighting Design
* Modern Theatre
* Musical Theatre History

**Materials**: Students will need the following materials in class EVERY DAY. *Please obtain and bring these materials as soon as possible.*

* Writing implements, which include but are not limited to pencils, pens, highlighters, etc.
* A **1” Binder** to hold all handouts, scripts, critical readings, etc.
* A **Composition Book** (It *must* be a composition notebook)
* A package of **Sticky Notes** and a package of **3x5 Note Cards**.
* **Appropriate class clothing** to allow for full movement and participation (gym clothes). I will inform you of days in which you will need to change for class.
* Periodically, you may want to have **art supplies** (markers, colored pencils, etc.) available.I will inform you when such materials will be necessary.
* An **assignment calendar** or personal planner.

**Written Work**: Please note that all formal writing assignments MUST be typed using MLA formatting. Turnitin.com will be used in this class; any plagiarism will result in a 0 and administrative discipline.

**Assignments:**

Throughout the year, **your primary assignments will be international baccalaureate assessments and an in class journal**. *However,* you will also have in class activities, participatory exercises, and small tests/quizzes. Refer to the grade breakdown section for descriptions of the corresponding weights.

* The following is a description of the IB assessments. **All students in IB Theatre are required to complete these assessments, which will be graded on the IB rubrics.** Corresponding rubrics can be located on the class website.
* Collaborative Project: An ensemble production in which the small group devises an original performance for an after-school audience. This assessment primarily consists of an individual portfolio wherein students describe and reflect upon their contributions to the collaboration.
* Director’s Notebook: An independently written 12-20 page, including images, MLA formatted description of your own creative directorial vision for a play of your choosing. This assessment is a portion of your final for first semester.
* Research Presentation: An independent/solo 13-15 minute presentation and demonstration of a theatrical tradition and physical or vocal convention completed in front of the class.
* HL Only – Solo Theatre Piece: HL students devise or memorize an independent theatre piece applying a theatre theorist’s work and reflecting on the impact on an audience.

**Participation**: The presence, curiosity, integrity and cooperation of all students are important to the success of everyone in the classroom. Students will be evaluated on various aspects, which include (but are not limited to):

* Actor and Ensemble Warm-Ups
* Full immersion in improvisational and performance games/activities
* Discussion
* Preparedness for class
* Respect for the teacher and fellow students

***This class is interactive. The more each student puts into the class, the more we will all get out of it.***

**Major Projects:** No late work will be accepted for the Internal Assessment. Due dates will be given well in advance. Even if the student is absent on the day the assignment is due, it is the student’s responsibility to make arrangements for his or her assignment to be turned in prior to the absence. For External Assessments, 10% will be deducted from the project grade for each day it is late, including weekends. Email submissions are accepted.

**Tests, quizzes, etc., must be made up as soon as possible.**

**Missing Work**: Will be reflected as an \* in the grade book until 2 weeks before quarter/semester grades are reported. It will become a zero at that time.

**Spartan Support:** Spartan support will be assigned when a student has more than one assignment missing.

**Attitude:**

- Trust and mutual respect are desirable in any classroom but especially so in drama, where students should ideally feel able to experiment, take risks, and share thoughts and feelings.

*- Do not think, do; do not tell, show; do not discuss it, make it*. Spontaneity embodies the risk-taking principle of the IB learner profile.

- Celebrate failure – goofs and gaffes should be shared and enjoyed in a spirit of adventure and experimentation.

- There will be no distracting noises or actions when a person or persons are performing on stage or in class.

- Participate as part of a team.

- Students are expected to support and encourage their fellow students in classwork.

- Performance and drama can sometimes be a stressful experience. You are expected to be positive and civil with all student-to-student encounters in our class. **Any negative feedback or criticisms of your classmates is strictly prohibited** and will result in punitive consequences.

**Cell Phones and iPods/Music Players:** Cell phones will NOT be permitted during activities in class. If I see a cell phone being used or hear a cell phone in class you will be asked to put it away. If it continues to occur, I will confiscate the electronic device and hold it until the end of class. Repeated offenses will reflect in participation/performance grades.

**Laptops:**

* Laptops will not be permitted in class unless we are working with computer carts. Experience and studies suggest that the negatives of laptop use in class outweigh the positives. If you are taking enough notes to need a laptop, you are spending too much time taking notes and not enough time engaging with the material, the teacher, and your classmates. You are also missing the valuable step of synthesis in your note taking.

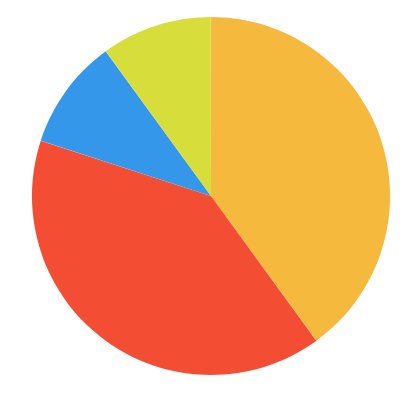
**Gum:**

Gum is not permitted in theatre class. We will be participating in physical activities and group movement due to the nature of a performing arts class. You need to use your voice well, and gum impedes that process.

**IB Grading Scale:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A 92-100**  **A- 88 – 91.99** | **B+ 84 – 87.99**  **B 80 – 83.99**  **B- 76 – 79.99** |  | **C+ 72 – 75.99**  **C 68 – 71.99**  **C- 64 – 67.99** | **D+ 60 – 63.99**  **D 52 – 59.99**  **F 51.99 and below** |  |

**Grade Distribution:**

**** 40% Process (Workshop Practice, Theatre Exercises, Performance Attendance, Critical Reading, etc.)

40% Culminating (IB Asssessments, Stage Directions Test, Acting Theory Test, Design Projects, Theatre

History Tests, etc.)

10% Journal (turned in monthly)

10% Final (First Semester – Director’s Notebook & Traditional Multiple Choice, Second Semester –

Performance or Traditional Options)

\*Only the External and Internal Assessments comprise the final IB certificate grade. There is no IB exam in May for the IB certificate in this course (similar to other Group 6 courses).

**Rounding:**

Final semester grades will be rounded up if the raw percentage is within .5% of a letter grade change, and only if the student has no missing projects/tests, production reviews, or final work. No exceptions will be made (including but not limited to extended illness, absences, etc.) as those instances will have already been ameliorated with excused work/late work agreements.

**Some of the Benefits of Drama!**

By participating in Drama you will increase your awareness of your surroundings; increase your awareness of yourself in group exercises; improve your listening skills and awareness of others; enhance your physical movement and expression; sharpen your diction and vocal projection skills. You will also experience these other outcomes:

* **Communication** – by presenting your artistic ideas through class activities, performances, written and verbal critiques, viewing of actual productions, and researching theatre topics
* **Critical Thinking** – by solving the problems posed in classroom activities and performances and by understanding the ethical and aesthetic power of stage performance
* **Personal Responsibility** – by attendance and punctuality in class, by taking initiative in classroom activities, and by planning and managing your time in rehearsal and in preparing projects
* **Social Responsibility** – by working with others in class activities, by making an active contribution to shows, and by your service to the community through play production

Thank you for your willingness to embark on a wonderful year of theatre!

This contract becomes valid and binding when the student and guardian are affixed to the signature page below. This section needs to be signed by the student and one parent/guardian, detached from the syllabus, and then returned to the teacher for safekeeping.

The student should obtain all necessary signatures and return this page by Friday, September 6, 2019.

**Student Syllabus/Contract Signature Page**

**IB Theatre Arts 2019-2020**:

*I hereby understand and agree to the terms of this contract. I promise to do my best to fulfill the course expectations so that I may gain all of the benefits that are possible from this course. I will strive to attend class regularly, complete all required work, participate in class activities, and I will have respect for my teacher and fellow classmates.*

***I understand that I have until September 13, 2019 to drop/switch a class without a “W” on the transcript.***

Student’s name PRINT:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Student, please update/verify your email address on Skyward.

*I have read this contract with my student and I understand the terms of this contract. I agree to provide support and assistance at home for my student as needed. I understand that my signature indicates my approval of units to be studied during this course****. I understand that my signature implies my acceptance of the policies described in this syllabus.*** *I understand that I am welcome to contact the teachers at my convenience regarding any concerns or comments.*

***We understand that students have until September 13, 2019 to drop/switch a class without a “W” on the transcript.***

Parent/Guardian’s name PRINT:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian’s Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Please, update/verify your email addresses and phone numbers on Skyward as well.