

THEATRE 1A/2A/Oral Interpretation of Shakespeare: 2015

O'Connor

Welcome to an invigorating course that covers myriad aspects of theatre. Work in the theatre cannot be done in isolation; your attendance, participation, and preparedness are vital to your success in this class. You will be expected to work independently as well; in addition to the texts studied in class, *you will see and review one live piece of theatre. Theatre 2 students see and review one per quarter.* You are expected to attend *Much Ado About Nothing*. The final project of the semester is a class production of a play or scene showcase on January 7 and 8; please put this on your calendar *now*, or let me know *now* if you have an insuperable conflict. It is very hard to find alternate dates, and **there is no make-up for this event!**

MASTERY OBJECTIVES

- To demonstrate understanding of character and dramatic structure; theatre history; and principles of stage design.
- To improve memorization and physical and vocal expression onstage through performance of monologues and scenes.

MAJOR UNITS

Critique of text and performances	Techniques of breath and speech
Class study of selected plays	Improvisation
Monologues and scene studies	Musical theatre
Costume and set design	Theatre history

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Practice (memorization, at-home preparation)	10%
Formative Assessments (in-class rehearsals; quizzes; writing tasks, classwork)	50%
Summative Assessments (final performances; projects)	40%

GRADING POLICY

Due dates will be established for all assignments. The deadline, by which a student may submit an assignment for a 10% reduction, is two class periods after the due date except in the case of writing assignments that include a series of preliminary steps. The deadline for such writing is one class period after the original due date. After the deadline, work will receive no credit. Reading quizzes, assignments that conclude a unit of study, and HW for practice may not be reassessed. Students may reassess other assignments after a timely conference and agreement with the teacher. The second grade will always stand.

ATTENDANCE

In accordance with the MCPS Attendance Policy, a student who earns 5 or more unlawful absences may not receive course credit. The student will receive a warning letter (electronically through Edline or by US post) after 3 unlawful absences. All students who earn more than 5 unlawful absences will have to appeal for credit restoration to the administration team. This is a time-sensitive issue—you will not be able to appeal after a certain date.

EVERYDAY REQUIRED MATERIALS

Bound composition notebook—for self-reflection, journal writing, and in-class writing
Your scripts (books or photocopied packets)
Props and costume pieces as your scenes require them
Pencil
Comfortable, school-appropriate attire

SUNDRY MATTERS

No food or drink (except water bottles) is permitted in the classroom. No gum. Infractions will affect your grade. No scented sprays, lotions, or cosmetics in the classroom.

Dress appropriately for movement—no flip-flops (new rule!), constricting/revealing clothing

No passes to the bathroom/locker/library will be given; take care of your business before coming to class.

The English Department phone number is 301-649-2856; please feel free to call me with questions or concerns, or email me at **Kelly_N_O'Connor@mcpsmd.org**. I look forward to a dramatically exciting year!

Kelly N. O'Connor