

# Las Vegas Academy of International Studies, Performing & Visual Arts

## Theatre 1

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## I. COURSE SCOPE

### A. DESCRIPTION

This first year course is designed to familiarize students with the theatre; it's intent, structure, effectiveness and value. Class work focuses on student performance through demonstration of various acting skills; continuous emphasis will be made to develop awareness and self-expression, to increase general knowledge of the theatre and to encourage social adjustment.

### B. COURSE GOALS

1. To interpret subtleties of sensory perception and emotional states.
2. To use imagination to form and express thought, feeling, and character.
3. To apply movement techniques for characterization in improvised and scripted activities.
4. To express meaning and character through language.
5. To apply vocal techniques for characterization in improvised and scripted work.
6. To develop and apply artistic discipline.
7. To improve understanding of self and others by expanding role repertoire and theatre literature knowledge.
8. To become aware of the need for ensemble in theatre.
9. To use improvisation for scripted and unscripted material.
10. To develop skills of analysis and spontaneity in creating characters.
11. To write and perform monologues and short scenes integrating content and form.
12. To use life to understand theatre and theatre to understand life.
13. To gain insight concerning discipline, knowledge and skills requisite for career preparation in theatre.
14. To see the cultural, social, and political aspects of theatre.
15. To expand depth and scope of aesthetic judgment by experiencing theatre of diverse styles, modes, and genres.
16. To synthesize knowledge of other arts into the creation of a role.
17. To respond to theatre art as an effort to interpret, intensify, and ennoble human experience.
18. To find joy as a participant in the performing arts.

## II. CURRICULUM MAP - See attached

### III. GRADING POLICY

#### A. GRADING SCALE

90% = A

80% = B

70% = C

60% = D

#### B. GRADING PROCEDURES

##### 1. GRADE BREAKDOWN

Student Participation (attendance, class participation, on time arrival)	10%
Notebook	10%
Read/See requirement	10%
Performance in class / exams	50%
Program Participation	20%

##### 2. CLASSROOM PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE

10 Points are given for daily attendance, participation in discussion, exercises, and games, and adherence to dress code.

Teamwork and ensemble performances are important and one absent student can ruin a presentation. If you are absent you lose your 10 points, however you can get back 5 of the points by having your absence excused through the Attendance office. You must present the Excused notice to me to get the points back.

**WARM UP / FOCUS** Five minutes after the bell rings each day students are expected to open their notebooks and make their entry in their observation log. This will be followed by a pre set warm up lead by the instructor or a student leader. If you are tardy, sign in, quickly join the warm up without talking. Please be advised you will lose 3 of 10 participation points for the day if you are late. **The school tardy policy will be strictly enforced.**

##### 3. CLASS NOTEBOOK

The notebook serves as your portfolio for this class. it will travel with you throughout your 4 years in Academy Theatre. It must be a 1 1/2" to 2" three ring binder with pockets inside the cover. It must also have the plastic sleeve covers. You will also need loose leaf notebook paper. It will contain clearly marked sections (tabbed dividers only) for:

1- **Introduction** - This will contain an authors page with the student's name and a brief autobiographical statement about the student's goals. You may be creative in developing this page. This section should also contain a listing of the student's performances, awards and accomplishments during the year. This will be useful in developing a resume. Your Time Trackers will be kept in this section.

2- **Observation Log** - a daily entry of at least five lines in which you describe in detail some sort of observation from your day. We will discuss what is expected here.

3- **Class Notes** - a dated entry containing your daily class notes, including critiques of performances in class.

4- **Play Reports** on plays read. Please follow the guidelines distributed. You are expected to read two plays every nine weeks from the Academy Theatre Reading List unless otherwise arranged with your teacher. Your

Reading List Check Card will be kept in this section.

5- **Play Reviews** - You are expected to see one play each nine weeks that does not occur at the Academy. You will write a newspaper style review of each play seen. You are also required to prepare a report for every Academy theatre production following the guidelines that will be provided.

6 - **Performance Materials** - Monologues, songs, scenes, or any other performance materials must all be kept in a neat orderly section. This includes all selections that you have actually done, plan on doing, or ones that interest you.

7 -**Handouts** - all handouts that you receive in class in order by date

8 -**Returned Work**

#### **4. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

In this class, as should be expected in all classes, spelling, grammar and neatness are always included in evaluation of your work. School policy on cheating and plagiarism will also be strictly followed in this course.

### **C. BASIS FOR SEMESTER GRADE.**

Semester grade equals first nine weeks grade at 40%, second nine weeks at 40%, final exam at 20%.

### **D. MAKE UP WORK POLICY**

You have three days to make up work missed, beginning on the day you return to school. You must make contact with me to initiate the make up process. Missing scheduled in-class performances is highly discouraged. If you have an excused absence, you need to reschedule your performance with the instructor. If your absence is unexcused you LOOSE CREDIT FOR THAT PERFORMANCE unless you complete an alternative written assignment if available. ALL WORK IS DUE ON THE DATE SPECIFIED FOR THE ASSIGNMENT. THERE ARE NO EXTENSIONS. WORK MAY ALWAYS BE TURNED IN EARLY FOR A 10% BONUS.

### **E. EXTRA CREDIT**

Extra credit may be earned in the following ways:

1. Turning assignments in early earns a 10% bonus on that assignment.
2. You are permitted to do one extra play report and one extra play review for additional credit.
3. Extra Production Hours will convert into extra credit - 1 point per 2 hours up to 20 points.

## **IV. CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR**

Very Simple!!! You are here to learn, I am here to teach. Lets both do our jobs! You are expected to be on time, ready to work (not chatting to your neighbors), have all of the materials that are required (notebook, writing implement, etc.) , and bring the appropriate attentive attitude to class.

-No gum, candy, or food

-water is permitted

-attentive, polite audience behavior

-provide positive feedback and constructive criticism to fellow students

-take criticism given to you constructively, and grow and develop

-keep a positive attitude towards class, yourself, and life

-tardiness will result in the loss of partial participation points (3 points) for that day

- Our time in class is very valuable. Hall passes will be strictly limited. Go to the bathroom before class

## **IV. OTHER SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **A. DRESS CODE**

A dress code for Theatre performance classes has been established. You will be required to wear black pants (NO SHORTS) that allow you to move (sweats or jazz pants). Shirts are to be white t-shirts with no writing or an approved Las Vegas Academy Theatre shirt. (NO GYM CLOTHES). Comfortable shoes that you can move in are required (sneakers or dance shoes). No bare feet. You lose all 10 participation points for the day if you do not dress. After the third violation in a semester the penalty is doubled.

### **B. PRODUCTION PARTICIPATION / PROGRAM SUPPORT**

Students will be given class credit for required participation in Las Vegas Academy Productions. Theatre I students are required to complete a minimum of 20 hours each quarter. Extra credit will be given for additional hours. Hours must be recorded on your Time Tracker that you keep in your notebook. You are expected to keep your Time Tracker current and get all required initials. Credit for hours is given only for Las Vegas Academy Theatre events. Academy Theatre students MAY NOT participate in activities outside LVA without submitting a written request to the faculty. Permission will only be granted after the student has auditioned and/or applied for crew positions for the semester and it has been determined that they will not be involved in departmental productions. Additionally, students are expected to attend all theatre department productions. This will be evaluated at the end of each quarter.

This document and the Theatre Department Handbook are to be taken home and shared with your parents. Then return the signed Syllabus / Handbook Acknowledgment Form to me.

I am very excited to have you in my class this year. Lets Go!!

Mr. Edwards