

# Dramatic Writing Syllabus

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Applies skills to culminate in creating and developing dramatic writing for theatrical and digital media. Includes development of “writerly stance” by reading, viewing, and analyzing texts and visual media from a writer’s point of view, with focus on understanding the construction process and including the application of conventions of standard English grammar and usage. This course meets fourth English Language Arts core requirements for 12<sup>th</sup> grade and also earn a Fine Arts credit (2.0 total credit earned for the course).

## Required Materials

Please bring the following items to class every day: notebook, daily journal, pen/pencils, water.

## Class Fees

This class has a fee of \$60.00 which covers the cost of play scripts (students keep these) and tickets for two (2) field trips to the Alliance Theatre to watch live productions:

- September 13 or 14 – *English* by Sanaz Toosi
- March 14 – *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens, adapted by Brendan Pelsue

The school only accepts online payments through the online OSP portal ([click here](#)). If needed, please contact the teacher for payment plan options.

## Classroom Policies and Procedures

- Students must always adhere to all school standard policy and procedures.
- This class is heavily based on participation in class activities. Students are required to participate in all activities, games, and workshops that will be done in class.
- Eating and drinking is allowed in class. However, students must clean up and throw away any trash. Failure to do so will result in no food or drink allowed in class.
- Students should not chew gum while in this class. There is a lot of movement throughout the course, and chewing gum is a safety hazard.
- If a student needs to sit out of an activity for any reason, they must listen, observe, and take notes which will then be turned in for a participation grade in the activity. The student will only have two class periods per semester where observation is an option.
- Students will always put their phones in the phone tree at the front of the classroom. **This will be used for attendance.** All personal devices should be put away at the start of class. Personal devices (laptops, tablets, etc.) will only be allowed during specific assignments and at the teacher’s discretion.

- Every person is important and vital to the success of the shows and events put on by Hooch Theatre. It is vital to your grade that you prepare for class and participate whether in an individual or group setting. Students who cannot maintain a passing grade will jeopardize their future in the class or role assignments at the discretion of the Director.

## **Grading Policy**

- **Major Grades**

These grades are 55% of the total course grade of the student. Students will be given either a performance or written assessment based on the unit that they have been working in. These assessments will be based on final performance in productions as well as in-class assessments.

- **Minor Grades**

These grades are 35% of the total course grade of the student. Students will be given grades to monitor their progress on performance. Rehearsals and workshops of scenes, small research projects, and character and script analysis work throughout the semester will be graded as minor assessments.

- **Practice Grades**

These grades are 10% of the total course grade of the student. Students are expected to participate in all class activities. If material is to be memorized, students are expected to come to class ready to work with the memorized material. Weekly rehearsal grades will be given.

## **Late Work**

Turning in work on time is strongly encouraged. If an assignment is turned in past the due date but prior to the end of the unit within which it was assigned, teachers will deduct 15% of the assignment grade. If an assignment is turned in past the due date but after the end of the unit within which it was assigned, teachers will deduct 25% of the assignment grade. All late work must be turned in before the end of the grading period.

## **Make-up Work**

Students are responsible for requesting make-up work from the teacher on the first day back to school, and they are expected to access homework and in-class assignments using their teacher's learning management system (TEAMS, website, etc.). Students who are present for any portion of the school day are expected to turn in all assignments due on that day to receive full credit. Assignment due dates that have been communicated prior to a full-day absence are always due upon the student's return to school when the due date occurred during the absence.

After an **absence**, a student will have the number of school days equivalent to the number of days absent to make up the work. Until an assignment is turned in, the gradebook will show a zero. ***Any exceptions for extensions of time will be made at the discretion of the teacher.***

## **Recovery Policy:**

### *Fulton County:*

Opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a low or failing cumulative grade will be allowed when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance.

Students should contact the teacher concerning recovery opportunities. Teachers are expected to establish a reasonable time period for recovery work to be completed during the semester. All recovery work must be directly related to course objectives and must be completed ten school days prior to the end of the semester.

Teachers will determine when and how students with extenuating circumstances may improve their grades.

#### *Chattahoochee High School Guidelines:*

All students and parents are strongly encouraged to sign up for the web-based program for monitoring grades–Infinite Campus. Students should check their averages frequently and see their teachers if they become concerned with their academic performance.

The goal of the CHS Recovery Policy is to support students in achieving mastery in both curriculum content and standards.

- Students will have one opportunity to recover their grade on each major assignment/assessment if they scored below 75% on the initial attempt. Recovery is not provided for minor or practice assignments.
- Students can earn a maximum grade of 75% on the recovered major assignment. Students who earn between 75 – 100 on the recovered assignment will receive a 75%. Students who earn below a 75 on the recovered assignment will receive the grade earned or the original grade, whichever is higher.
- To best position students for success, teachers may require students to complete any missing assignments, remediation activities, and/or attend extra-help sessions prior to recovery opportunities.
- Recovery must be requested by the student and completed prior to the due date for the next major assignment/assessment.

#### **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is a commitment by teachers, students, and all members of the academic community to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Even under difficult circumstances or pressures related to grades/time, it is imperative that all members of the community avoid any action that may result in creating an unfair academic advantage for themselves or for any other member of the school community. Examples of academic dishonesty that provide such an advantage include but are not limited to: sharing test questions with others who have not yet taken the test, misrepresentation of data, consultation of outside resources (including AI) without permission, unauthorized collaboration, and plagiarism.

Violations may result in severe consequences including but not limited to: a zero on the assignment, Saturday school, suspension from extracurriculars, loss of parking pass, removal from honors societies, and possible required reporting on college applications which may affect student admission into certain colleges and universities.

Each student is expected to maintain and support academic integrity by:

- i. Completing all assigned work, activities, and tests in an honorable way that avoids all cheating, lying, and stealing,
- ii. Clarifying with the instructor anything that may be unclear about an assignment, with respect to how the Academic Integrity Policy/Honor Code may apply to it,
- iii. Maintain records of research notes, outlines, rough drafts and reference works to validate individual effort,

Seek supplemental assistance from teachers, parents or peers to understand lessons and assignments within the parameters established by the teacher.

### **Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all classes and be present and accounted for at the tardy bell. If students miss a class, it is their responsibility to contact the teacher about any recovery or make-up work.

### **Hall Passes**

If a student has questions regarding their classwork or grades, the teacher will be available before or after school BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Appointments can be made by email ONLY.

Students will not be given passes in the first 10 minutes or last 10 minutes of class.

If a student needs a pass to the Black Box to speak to the teacher during Chatt Time, they must fill out a Hall Pass approval using the QR code on the white board. Students will be sent back to class without a hall pass approved by the instructor.

### **Course Materials**

Students will be reading and watching plays, screenplays, and films throughout the year. These works have been chosen due to the merit of the piece and the playwright and to show a diverse range of play structure and thematic elements (GA Standard TAHSTL.RE.1.a-c.). All pieces have been chosen to address themes spoken about in class. If you are uncomfortable with your student reading/watching this material, please contact the instructor.

- *The Oldest Boy* by Sarah Ruhl
- *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller (Some discussion of death and mental health)
- *English* by Sanaz Toosi (Some strong language)
- *Little Women* by Kate Hamill (play) and *Little Women* by Greta Gerwig (film), based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott
- *Casablanca* by Julius J. and Phillip G. Epstein and Howard Koch, based on the play *Everybody's Comes to Rick's* by Murray Burnett and Joan Allison
- *Inside Out* by Josh Cooley, Pete Docter, and Meg LeFauve

### **Thespian Society**

All students enrolled in this class are eligible to join Troupe 7612 of the International Thespian Society. The International Thespian Society is an honors organization dedicated to educating young people and the communities they live in about the dramatic arts. As members of the troupe, students will have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities and events, including the Ten Minute Play Festival, Improv Battle and the annual Georgia Thespian Conference in Columbus, GA.

For more information about the Chattahoochee High School Thespian Troupe, please visit [www.hoochtheatre.com/thespiansociety](http://www.hoochtheatre.com/thespiansociety).

### **Performance Reports**

Students are expected to attend all three major Hooch Theater productions: the fall One-Act, the winter musical, and the spring play. A two-page report on the production including discussion of the specific writing of the show and how this production

enhanced it is due the Friday after the production closes. The paper should be in Times New Roman, double-spaced, and with 1” margins.

Tickets for the productions are available on the Chattahoochee OSP or at [www.hoochtheatre.com/tickets](http://www.hoochtheatre.com/tickets). If students are not able to attend, they must watch a filmed theatrical production assigned by the teacher and submit a report on the same due date.

### **Important Dates**

- October 18: Field Trip: *Fiddler on the Roof* – City Springs Theatre Company
- November 2-4: Fall One-Act – Black Box Theatre @ 7:30 PM
- November 29: Field Trip: *A Christmas Carol* – Alliance Theatre
- February 1-3: Georgia Thespian Conference – Columbus State University
- February 8-10: Winter Musical – Chattahoochee Auditorium
- February 16: Improv Battle – Chattahoochee Auditorium
- March 7-8: 10 Minute Play Festival – Black Box Theatre
- March 20: Field Trip: *Beauty and the Beast* – City Springs Theatre Company
- April 18-20: Spring Advanced Acting Play – Chattahoochee Auditorium
- May 17: Musical Theatre Cabaret – Chattahoochee Auditorium