

Syllabus

Performance Theater

Heritage Academy
A University-Model School®

Heritage Academy is a certified, University-Model School® that partners with Christian Parents to prepare college-worthy, character witnesses for Jesus Christ.

I. Course Purpose and Content

Through interaction with the various components of theatre (fundamentals, acting, technical production, and the analysis of dramatic literature), students will receive opportunity to discover and cultivate new skills and talents which they may then allow to impact other areas of their lives.

II. Worldview Integration

Heritage Academy is committed to teaching subjects in such a way that students develop a biblical worldview out of which to think and act. Theatre, like art, explores the human condition, which is corrupted by the fall yet contains shadows of its original glory. The characters and stories explored in theatre provide us with a mirror that reveals to us a myriad of peoples' different views and experiences. By looking into that mirror and coming to it strong with a Biblical understanding of truth and reality, we are invited to recognize and consider the influences that often produce choice and the consequences of all choices, either made consciously and unconsciously with the heart, mind, and will. It's by exploring the mindset - and even considering how to imitate and mimic the actions and attitudes - of characters in focus that we are challenged to explore the depths of our own hearts and minds and discover what sorts of goodness and darkness linger there... and we can receive fresh motivated to consistently seek and surrender ourselves to the transforming grace of God at work in our own lives.

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:26-27).

"Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life" (Galatians 6:7-8).

"Whoever walks with the wise will grow wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm" (Proverbs 13:20).

III. Required Materials

Please reference *Required Text Book List* and *Course Supplies List* for the appropriate academic year to identify the textbooks and supplies students will need for this course. Both the Required Text Book List and Course Supplies List are accessible online.

IV. Course Guidelines/Student Requirements

A. Attendance

Attendance is imperative as concepts cannot be learned if a student is absent. Students are expected to attend class and contribute positively to the classroom environment.

Tardiness is disruptive to other class members. Please arrive on time and prepared. All absences and tardies are considered unexcused unless accompanied by a note from a parent or guardian. Please remember that three tardies generate one absence.

As communicated in Heritage Academy's Family Manual, a passing grade awarded at the end of the semester generally requires that a secondary student has attended at least forty-two class periods during the semester. Failure to meet this minimum attendance requirement may result in an F being awarded and recorded on the student's transcript.

B. Absences and Late Work

In the case of planned absence(s), homework that is due during the student's absence must be completed and submitted to the instructor in advance.

When a student is unexpectedly and unavoidably absent due to ill health, past-due assignments must be submitted within two course periods after the student's return to school. **When an unexpected absence must occur, please be sure to notify the school office and the instructor of the students' absence as quickly as possible, preferably before the involved class occurs. This contact may occur by phone or by email.**

Late work that is submitted simply "late" will be graded and penalized with a **ten percent grade reduction for each course period that it is late**; homework will not be accepted more than three course periods (1 week) past its due date, unless previous arrangements between the teacher and the student's parent have been agreed to in light of peculiar circumstances that are occurring beyond the family's control.

C. Student Conduct and Preparation for Learning

For the sake of promoting a safe and focused learning environment, the student is expected to do the following throughout the course of the semester:

- 1) Arrive on time to each class period with the appropriate class materials available for access (e.g., organized notebook with dividers and filed materials, paper, writing tools, texts, and other tools as directed)
- 2) Arrive prepared to submit completed at-home assignments at start of each class period.
- 3) Arrive ready to listen, learn, take notes, and participate in teacher-directed classroom discussions and activities.
- 4) Ask for clarification or further explanation when a concept or direction remains unclear.
- 5) Demonstrate a spirit of cooperation, kindness, and respect toward the teacher and fellow classmates, in keeping with Heritage Academy's Code of Conduct.
- 6) Help keep the classroom area clean and orderly.
- 7) Cooperate with the parent-educator and the Heritage Academy teacher to complete homework in a timely fashion
- 8) Communicate concerns regarding schoolwork to both the Heritage Academy teacher and the parent-educator, so that these concerns can be addressed quickly.
- 9) On the whole, conduct himself or herself in a manner that is worthy of Christ and reflects the life of the Holy Spirit in him/her: ". . . that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light" (Colossians 1:12).

D. At-Home (Satellite Classroom) Investment

Daily home-assignments will be outlined on the weekly Home-Communication Sheet the student will receive each Monday. The student can expect to invest approximately 2.5 to 4 hours each week completing coursework at home in preparation for class periods. Course assignments may include any of the following:

- **Memorize Poem and Script Lines**
- **Read Assigned Text Pages and Do Assigned Homework**
- **Study for Weekly Tests**
- **Other Assigned Work at the Discretion of the Instructor**

D. Assessments

Two to three quizzes over theatre terms and course content will be administered during the course of the semester. Pre-performances and performances will also be formally assessed.

E. Grades

Grade Apportionment		Grading Scale	
Homework Assignments/Projects	40%	100-95... A	79-77...C+
Participation	20%	94-90...A-	76-73...C
Written Tests/Quizzes/Performances	40%	89-87...B+	72-70...C-
		86-83...B	69-60...D
		82-80...B-	59 or below... F

The course grade the student is awarded at the end of the semester will indicate the grade that will also appear on the student's transcript. To maintain eligibility for promotion to the next course in Heritage Academy's Language Arts sequence, the student must achieve a percentage grade of 70% or above, translating to a letter grade of C- or above, and fulfill attendance requirements.

V. Parent Responsibilities

A. Embrace the University Model

University-Model Schooling at Heritage Academy is driven by two guiding principles:

- ◆ to preserve and strengthen God-ordained family relationships
- ◆ to offer students the opportunity to achieve a high degree of academic excellence.

Heritage Academy operates as a University-Model School®, designed for families who want their students to flourish from a life anchored in the home yet still gain from the best aspects of traditional, classroom education. Courses offered at Heritage Academy occur every-other-day so that students may realize the benefits of qualified teachers and a focused learning community, yet continue to experience home as the primary, consistent base where parents remain their foremost guides for spiritual, social, academic, and character formation.

Parents, please consider ways you may maximize the benefits University-Model Schooling offers to your family. How can you as parents utilize the at-home study time this model provides to nurture deeper relationship and model and impart the faith, values, and life-patterns you desire your student to embrace?

B. Fulfill Parent Role: *Guide for Dependent Study*

Within the University-Model School®, **parents commit to fulfill a specified role related to each course** in which their student is enrolled, as prescribed by the course's description. Each role identifies specific responsibilities that the teacher relies on the parent to perform, thus facilitating effective home/school partnership whereby students are assured of receiving needed support. For this course, Heritage Academy has designated parents the role of "**Guide for Dependent Study.**"

This role recognizes that many courses at this level will begin to cover subject matter that may be unfamiliar to many parents. At the same time, the student is at a dependent age where disciplined study habits and strategies for managing time must be developed, not by parental force, but through positive encouragement and through the student's growing awareness of personal consequences. In order for this class to be successful, I as a teacher am depending upon you as parents to ensure that your son or daughter keeps up with the course material and to communicate with me should any difficulties or concerns arise.

Monitor Engrade and View Seven-Week and Thirteen-Week Engrade Reports

As your student earns grades for completed tests, quizzes, and various projects and homework assignments, these will be recorded on Engrade.com for you to view at your convenience. My general goal will be to post grades online within a week of their being awarded.

In Engrade, missing assignments will also be noted by an "M." Please take time to follow your student's progress on Engrade so that you can quickly recognize and explore/address areas of patterns of difficulty or concern that may appear and affirm positive accomplishments.

Directions to register for Engrade are accessible on Heritage Academy's website under "Resources" and "Engrade", or may also be received from the office. If you need aide setting up Engrade (it should only take about two minutes), please contact Heritage Academy's office.

Engrade Reports, which will include parent-directed comments related to your student's behavior and progress in class, will be ready for parents to view at the seven-week and thirteen-week point in the semester.

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VI. Contacting the Instructor

Teacher contact information will be provided on the weekly communication sheets that will be distributed in class or may be found in the school directory.