

**Devised Theater**  
**Course #: CRSG5HQB-21**  
**Fall 2017**  
**2017-2018 School Year**  
**Instructor: S. Manas**

**Learning Standards:**

*Course Objective:*

Students will be able to to the devise a piece of original theatre based on literature in a collaborative setting. Through classroom exercises and the creation, rehearsal and presentation of a devised and interpreted performance project, the participants will explore the essential questions and investigative tools of the theatre practitioner.

*New York State Learning Standards for the Arts*

Learning Standard 1: Students will engage in individual and group theatrical and theatre-related tasks, and will describe the various roles and means of creating, performing, and producing theatre.

Learning Standard 2: Students will know the basic tools, media, and techniques involved in theatrical production. Students will locate and use school, community, and professional resources for theatre experiences. Students will understand the job opportunities available in all aspects of theatre.

*Common Core Standards:*

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.1

Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 11-12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.2

Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) in order to make informed decisions and solve problems, evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source and noting any discrepancies among the data.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.4

Present information, findings, and supporting evidence, conveying a clear and distinct perspective, such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning, alternative or opposing perspectives are addressed, and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and a range of formal and informal tasks.

**Course Description:**

Students will receive an introduction to the devising of original theatre from literature in a collaborative setting. Through classroom exercises and the creation, rehearsal and presentation of a devised and interpreted performance project, the participants will explore the essential questions and investigative tools of the theatre practitioner. Students will choose the literature, assign roles, write and create the piece, and work to create a theater piece from the ground up.

**Calendar\*\*:**

Class Number	Classwork	Homework
1	Introduction to devised theater.	Read <i>Into the West: An Exploration in Form</i> and answer questions. Due class #2
2	How to Devise theater	Improv Reading and answer questions. Due class #4
3	<i>Watch the Laramie Project</i>	
4	Finish <i>The Laramie Project</i> and Introduction to improv	Journal entry. Due class #4
5	Improvisation games and exercised	Journal entry. Due class #5
6	Read literature	
7	Read literature	
8	Read literature	
9	Read literature	

10	Choose literature	Journal entry. Due class #11
11	Improv	Journal entry. Due class #12.
12	Improv	Journal entry. Due class #13.
13	Improv	Journal entry. Due class #14.
14	Write play	Journal entry. Due class #15.
15	Write play	Journal entry. Due class #16.
16	Write play	Theater jobs reading and questions. Journal entry. Due class #17.
17	Write play.	. Journal entry Due class #18.
18	Cast play and choose crew.	Journal entry. Due class #19.
19	Rehearse and make scenery, props, costumes, etc.	Journal entry. Due class #20.
20	Rehearse and make scenery, props, costumes, etc.	Journal entry. Due class #21.
21	Rehearse and make scenery, props, costumes, etc.	Journal entry. Due class #22.
22	Rehearse and make scenery, props, costumes, etc.	Journal entry. Due class #23.
23	Rehearse and make scenery, props, costumes, etc.	Journal entry. Due class #24.
24	Rehearse and make scenery, props, costumes, etc.	Journal entry. Due class #25.
25	Rehearse and make scenery, props,	Journal entry. Due class #26.

	costumes, etc.	
26	Rehearse and make scenery, props, costumes, etc.	Journal entry. Due class #27.
27	Rehearse and make scenery, props, costumes, etc.	Journal entry. Due class #28.
28	Rehearse and make scenery, props, costumes, etc.	Journal entry. Due class #29.
29	Rehearse and make scenery, props, costumes, etc.	Journal entry. Due class #30.
30	Performance	Journal entry. Due class #31.
31	Self - Evaluation	Journal entry. Due class #32.
32	Make up work	

*\*\*subject to change based on student needs\*\**

**Materials and Texts:**

- “Film Theory and Approaches to Criticism”
- “Duck Soup” (article)
- “Casablanca: The Romance of Propaganda”
- “Night of the Living Dead: Reappraising an Undead Classic”
- “Apocalypse Now, Vietnam and the Rhetoric of Influence”
- “Forever and Ever and Ever: Uncanny Doubles in “The Shining””
- “Shaun of the Dead and Zombie Films”

**Grading Policy:**

Project Based Assessment -30%

The project based assessment will be based on the student’s contribution to every step of the process. They will also receive an evaluation for their final assigned role in the devised piece.

Homework – 10%

For homework, you will either receive a 100% for having completed it with clear effort or a 0 for having not completed it. Homework must show an effort has been made to be considered complete. This includes journal entries.

#### Attendance – 20%

You must come to class and you must be on time. You will receive 2 points (100%) for being present and on time, 1 point (50%) for being late, and zero points (0%) for an unexcused absence or cut.

#### Participation – 30%

Devised theater can only be successful if all the company members are involved in the process. As such, students are required to participate in all class activities.

#### Behavior - 10%

Students are expected to follow all class rules while in class.

### **Classroom Procedures:**

Students are expected to be in class, on time, and ready to work. There is a bathroom in the classroom that students may use. If a student needs the nurse, the Dean, the unit coordinator, or to go to the main office, they will be allowed to go and provided a pass at the teacher and para's discretion.

The students will participate in the lesson. As the period comes to a close, the teacher will go over their behavioral points with the students, asking them first what they think they earned and then telling them what they actually earned. The rules and point policies are detailed in the next section.

### **Class Rules and Behavior:**

#### *School Rules:*

Students may not wear hats or bandanas in school. They may not bring weapons, drugs, alcohol, or any illegal paraphenalia into the school building. Students must attend school and be on time. Cell phones and other non-approved technology must be turned off and away while in class unless otherwise instructed.

*Classroom Rules:*

Rules are clearly posted in the classroom and are as follows:

1. Listen to your teachers and paras.
2. Keep your hands (and all other body parts) to yourself.
3. Be respectful of your peers and teachers.
4. Avoid side conversation.

*Behavioral System:*

For every period a student is in class they are eligible to receive up to 4 behavioral points, one for each rule they follow. These points will be recorded on a monthly behavioral points sheet. At the end of the month, if they have received an average of 3 points for the month, they will receive a reward to enjoy while they work or at a later time.

**Academic Policies:**

At Manahattan High School at The Beacon School students are expected to perform their work with integrity and honesty. In this course, cheating, plagiarism, disruptions of instructional activity, fraud and/or lying may result in a failing grade of "F" for the assignment. Additionally, any attempts to hand in work from another class or work done at a previous school may also result in a failing grade of "F" for the assignment