



IB THEATRE 2024-2025

Brian Grunkowski (he/him/G)

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Office- A107F

Classroom- A109

Office Hours- A or B lunch

Google Classroom Code: 3yf2ant

Remind 101 Class Code: @6dg8dg4

A Little About Mr. G

I have wanted to be a teacher since I was a three year old teaching my stuffed animals. Now, twenty four years later, I still love what I do (especially since I get interaction from my students.) I strive to continually refine my teaching practices to make my classes and productions as engaging, relevant, and enriching.

"Actors think more with their hearts than their heads."

-Bette Davis

"I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being."

-Thornton Wilder

"My wish for you is that you continue. Continue to be who and how you are, to astonish a mean world with your acts of kindness."

-Maya Angelou

MY WISH FOR YOU



In this class, I invite you to explore who you are as a theatre artist. Together, we will navigate through dramatic literature, discover ways to express ourselves through movement and voice, develop skills necessary for working as an ensemble, and gain a deeper understanding of the human experience. I would love for you to leave with a better understanding of who you are as an artist.

IB THEATRE GOALS



1

Create and refine your director and/or designer's eye and explore who you are as a theatre artist.

2

Explore performance and design theories to create your own artistic toolkit.

3

Collaborate with fellow artists to create a cohesive production.

4

Commit to reflecting on your journey as a collaborator as well as an artist.

5

Analyze and interpret dramatic literature as a theatre artist.

PARTICIPATION & COLLABORATION ✓

Theatre is a collaborative art. We cannot collaborate without everyone. Our classroom values everyone's unique experiences, identities, thoughts, ideas, concerns, backgrounds, and access needs. I invite you to participate with your whole self. I ask that you treat everyone with respect as we will go through times of disagreement. Together we will develop sentence stems to help us apologize honestly and bring up concerns respectfully.

We will be exploring different aspects of theatrical production including script analysis, acting exercises, warm-ups, improvisation exercises, devising, directing, designing, etc. Depending on the day and the amount of physical activity, everyone's access needs may be different. I invite you to consider the three types of participation in our physical activities.

1- Participate physically in the exercises, games, and activities we explore as well as contribute to reflection time following the activity.

2- Observe from the sidelines, offering thoughts and observations during reflection time.

3- Observe from the sidelines and offer thoughts, observations, and reflections via Reflection Google Form.

CLASS AGREEMENTS



Together, we will develop classroom agreements that we will compile in a poster in our room. We will develop agreements at the beginning of our year and revisit/revise them as we need to throughout the year.

ATTENDANCE



As we are, in part, a production class, we need everyone involved in the production here to be successful. If you know you are going to be absent, please email or send a Remind message to Mr. G when you can. This can help us organize how we accomplish our daily goals.

FORMAT OF OUR CLASS



I have designed this class as a seminar. We will engage in units of study related to our four IB Theatre tasks. As we explore the tasks, we will examine acting theory, fascinating theatrical traditions from around our world, theory, technique, movement, and design concepts. We will discover ways to create devised theatre. Some days will include staying in our classroom and others may be spent rehearsing our production. We will collaborate on daily agendas and plan our weekly schedules according to what needs we have. Sometimes plans change. In those instances, we will collaborate and brainstorm what we need to accomplish during our class time. We will use Fridays as our flex-day to present a leading activity and to catch up on anything we need to.

ACCESS NEEDS



We are humans that experience ups and downs. I invite you to share with the class (or privately with me) anything that is going on that may prevent you from participating fully in the day. It may be that you have a headache or your throat is sore and you cannot speak. It may be there is something weighing heavy on your heart and you may be a little down that day. Access needs make you human. I invite you to be open with what you need to be successful.

GRADING



Plano ISD requires teachers to give grades according to two categories: Daily Work (40%) and Major Evaluations (60%). The district requires teachers to give at least 8 daily grades and no more than 3 major assessments per nine weeks.

ASSESSMENTS



REFLECTION JOURNALS (weekly for a daily grade)

I invite you to reflect on your growth each week. A true reflection recognizes both successes/what worked and also acknowledges what you may consider to improve upon. You can record your reflections in any way that works best for you- written in a journal, typed in a Google Doc, etc. Class time will be given on Friday to record your reflections.

PLAY REVIEWS (4 of these for a major evaluation grade)

Read a play and write a review about it. Include a brief synopsis of the plot, a description of the idea/themes within the play, and the production aspects essential for a production of this play. The play reviews should be deep and brief. I have TONS of plays and love to offer suggestions if anyone needs one! We will create a rubric collaboratively once we read our first play and model a play review for understanding.

PLAY CRITIQUES (4 of these for a major evaluation grade)

I want you to watch locally produced theatre. If you are unable to watch locally produced theatre, you have a subscription to Digital Theatre Plus in your Plano ISD Student Webdesk. You can find many productions there to write about. In your play critique, include where you witnessed the production as well as an analysis and evaluation of the performance and technical aspects. We will create a rubric collaboratively once we watch our first production in class.



LEADING ACTIVITIES (daily grade; varies per nine weeks)

Part of collaboratively work means sometimes leading others. We can learn so much from one another. I ask that at some point in the year, each of you lead the class in each of the following: (1) a landing practice at the beginning of class; (2) an effective vocal/physical warm-up; (3) quote of the week; and (4) class discussion of theatre related article or current event in theatre. I will model each of these in the first few weeks of class. After, you will have the opportunity to sign up for a time.

RESEARCH PRESENTATION (IB DUE DATE: MARCH 4, 2025)

You will research a theatre tradition from around our world and create a 15 minute maximum presentation. More information will be given during class.

PRODUCTION PROPOSAL (IB DUE DATE: APRIL 16, 2025)

I want you to have experience developing a show with a director's vision. This project encapsulates our class goals and serves as your exam grade for the first semester. For this project, you will imagine you are the director for a play of your choosing. We will go over IB specific criteria as the year progresses.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECT (IB DUE DATE: APRIL 23, 2025)

In small groups, we will devise theatre. We will research theatre companies worldwide who devise theatre. Using their methods and exercises as a springboard for creation, we will devise and rehearse in class. The Collaborative Project is performed at the IB Fine Arts Showcase. More detailed information on the task and the grading criteria are given during class.

SOLO THEATRE PIECE (HL only- IB DUE DATE: APRIL 23, 2025)

Students will each research a theatre theorist. Taking inspiration from the theory, students will create a 4-7 minute solo theatre piece. The Solo Theatre Piece is performed at the IB Fine Arts Showcase. More detailed information on the task and the grading criteria are given during class.

Week	Week at a Glance	Due
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class agreements • Icebreakers • Team challenges • Who Am I As An Artist? 	Reflection Journal
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary practices introduction • “Oops / Ouch” and “Button” • Reading a play like a theatre artist • The theatre making process & prospectives 	Reflection Journal
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staging theatre • Theatrical intentions • TEAM • Guest Artist- John Rawley 	Reflection Journal
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metamorphosis- Frantic Assembly 	Reflection Journal
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Director’s Craft • Developing your craft • The role of dramaturgy in production 	Reflection Journal
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breaking down a scene • Analyze the action of the play • Design elements • Communicating with designers 	Reflection Journal
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production Proposal 	Reflection Journal

Week	Week at a Glance	Due
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ethics of Research • Identifying Bias in Research • Choosing a theatre tradition 	Who Am I As An Artist? Presentations
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compiling sources for research presentation • Creating an annotated bibliography 	Play Review Due Play Critique Due
Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musical Week! • Continuing research • Finalizing annotated bibliography • Beginning the presentation 	Reflection Journal
Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring the performance convention • Putting together the presentation 	Reflection Journal
Week 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PESH IB Theatre 9/10 OAP Week! • First run (non filming) Research Presentations 	Reflection Journal
Week 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflecting on research • Throwback to Production Proposal • Watch Digital Theatre Plus • Read script 	Plano East Theatre Fall Show
Week 14 Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Texas Thespians Convention • Learning new things • Networking with other theatre artists • Watching shows 	Reflection Journal

Week	Week at a Glance	Due
Week 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing Production Proposal • Preparing Research Presentation 	Play Review Due Play Critique Due
Week 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filming Research Presentations • Finalizing Production Proposal 	Production Proposal Due
Week 17 Exam Week	Exam week!	Production Proposal Presentations
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Collaborative Project • Introduction to Solo Theatre Piece • Inspirations 	Reflection Journal
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflections as a collaborator • Solo Theatre Piece research • Collaborative roles 	Reflection Journal
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning to Lead 	Reflection Journal
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring the Devising Company • We will create a schedule for our project together 	Reflection Journal

Week	Week at a Glance	Due
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring the Devising Company We will continue to adjust the schedule as needed 	Reflection Journal
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued exploration of Devising Company We will create a schedule of activities together 	Reflection Journal
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finding a starting point Inspiration revisited Begin true collaborative project 	Play Review Due Play Critique Due
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audience intentions Identifying visuals Create a plan 	Reflection Journal
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking turns directing and devising Research Presentation submissions March 4, 2025 	Research Presentation- March 4, 2025
Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking turns directing and devising 	Reflection Journal
Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehearsing collaborative project Adjusting structure Transitions 	Reflection Journal

Week	Week at a Glance	Due
Week 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue rehearsals • Adjusting structure • Transitions 	Reflection Journal
Week 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for IB Fine Arts Showcase! • IB Fine Arts Showcase April 11, 2025 	IB Fine Arts Showcase April 11, 2025
Week 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing projects for submission • Production Proposal Due April 16, 2025 • Collaborative Project & Solo Theatre due April 23 	April 16- Production Proposal April 23- Collaborative & Solo Theatre Pieces
Week 15 Senior Directs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative & Solo Theatre Due April 23 	
Week 16 Senior Directs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IB Testing • Extension activities as requested 	
Week 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IB Testing • Extension activities as requested 	
Week 18/19 Final Exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IB Testing • No final exam for IB Theatre 	