**INTRO TO PLAYWRITING**

Instructor: Terry Gabbard

terryw.gabbard@cms.k12.nc.us

gabbardtheatre.weebly.com

**Course Description**

The course is designed to allow students to fully explore the craft of playwriting. Students will work both individually and collaboratively to create unique scenes and develop their own creative voice. Through coursework, students will explore dimensions of writing through key areas of craft including figurative language, dialogue, essentials of dramatic form, and plot structure. Students will also delve into dramatic literature units, work daily in a writer's journal, and learn the basics of stage performance and production. Course work will culminate with a collection of either a full-length play, a full-length screenplay, or a collection of short plays. Additionally, students will be submitting work to local, state, and national playwriting competitions, and will collaborate with other classes to present stage readings and formal productions of original work.

**Course Goals and Objectives**

1. Use a variety of creative processes to develop play scripts and screen plays

2. Draw inspiration from a variety of sources including classic and contemporary dramatic works

3. Analyze their own work and the work of others in terms of quality of dialogue, plot structure, technical requirements, language mechanics, and production potential

4. Utilize basic technical theatre elements to enhance the presentation of original works

5. Collaborate with other theatre artists to develop and conceptualize their work

**Course Materials**

1. Daily Writers Notebook

2. Paper

3. Writing Instrument

4. School Chrome Books or a personal device will be used for daily writing

**Assessment**

Mastery of Course Objectives will be assessed based on the following:

· Daily Journal Writing

· Play Writing Projects

· Various Creative Assignments

· Mid Term and Final Exams

· Literary Focus Papers

**Grading Policy**

INFORMAL – Students are expected to complete assignments and turn them in when they are due. ASD and other consequences can occur when assignments are late.

FORMAL - Please see the Fine Arts Grading Policy for specific instructions regarding formal retesting/reassessment.

Grade Break Down -

· Formal Assessment – 70%

· Informal Assessment – 30%

**Class Rules:**

Be Prepared

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be Honest

No Gum

Take Risks

High Expectations of Yourselves & Others

**Theatre Critique Paper**:

Students are required to attend one live theatrical performance and compose a formal theatre critique paper. This paper will be due five days after the production. A detailed assignment breakdown and rubric is on the class web page.

**Playwright’s Night**

A major component of a playwright’s process is observing their work performed by actors. On an evening in February (date tba) students will have the opportunity to do just that. Students from the Intermediate Acting class will present fully realized staged versions of scene work submitted by the playwriting class. This is an exciting event and it is an expectation that all playwrights attend. More information will be provided once the date has been finalized.

**International Thespian Society**

Theatre students are encouraged to participate in our thespian troupe. By becoming involved in after-school activities students can enhance the learning in the classroom and put theory into practice. The International Thespian Society is an honorary society which recognizes students for both service and excellence in the dramatic arts.

**Course Overview**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Unit of Study | Formal Assignments |
| ***1st Quarter*** |  |
| Orientation | Open Ended Questionnaire/ Writing Sample |
| Scene Basics | The Pitch |
| Composing a 10 Minute Play | 10 Minute Play Submission |
| ***2nd Quarter*** |  |
| Writing Through Improv | Devised Script |
| Literary Study | Script Analysis Graph |
| Playwright Night Project | PWN Script Submission |
| ***3rd Quarter*** |  |
| Scripts in Other Forms | Pod Cast Project |
| Composing a Screenplay | Story Board Project |
| Screenplay Project | Screenplay Submission |
| ***4th Quarter*** |  |
| Collaborative Writing Project | Staged Reading |
| Composing a Full Length Play | Final Script Readings and Submission |