

Theatre Arts

Introduction to Theatre Arts** FALL 2020 Credit .50 Semester 1 F/SO/J/S

This course will serve as an introduction to the theory and practice of the theatre and its arts and crafts (scenic design and production/prop construction/scene painting). The course will combine background and theory for each area and each section will entail working on a creative project that will demonstrate and implement what the student has learned. This is an introductory course that requires no previous theatrical background or training.

Musical Theater: History & Performance** SPRING 2021 Credit .50 Semester 2 F/SO/J/S

Through books, video, audio, discussion, and live exploration this class will survey the development of musical theatre, one of America's great indigenous art forms. In addition, by looking at musical theatre from multiple perspectives – historical, cultural, political, social, aesthetic – the class will explore the ways in which musicals both reflect and embody values, tastes and trends in the cultures and eras from which they spring. The focus will be primarily on the stage, but the influence and interplay between Broadway and Hollywood will also be discussed. Reflecting the influences of the cultural and social history of the United States, Broadway musical theater has grown into a mainstay of our musical history and culture as well as a hugely popular phenomenon and lucrative industry. Students will also have a chance to learn and perform songs from their favorite Broadway musicals.

Introduction to Acting** FALL 2021 Credit .50 Semester 1 F/SO/J/S

This is a laboratory-style course which will introduce students to the basic techniques of acting. Students will participate in scene work, class exercises, and written analyses. Students will learn to develop the emotional aspects of characters and how to combine those aspects with physical action. Students will also learn how to evaluate theatrical products with specific focus on the skills they are learning.

Women in Theatre** SPRING 2022 Credit .50 Semester 2 F/SO/J/S

Once, theatre was an all-male profession. This course will introduce students to those women who made free access to the theatre profession possible. The course will examine cultural practices that led to both the inclusion and exclusion of women in theatre. There are two primary aims to this course: First, to provide students with an historical overview of women in playwriting, acting, and directing, and second, to see how contemporary social issues are applied to the practice, texts, and criticisms of the stage.

Footlighters Club Year F/SO/J/S

The Mercy High School Footlighters is the theatre arts co-curricular offering and meets after school. Students in Footlighters will explore the various areas of the theatre arts including: basic acting, set construction, theatre marketing, technical theatre, and education theatre outreach. The students also support the Mercy High School theatre productions throughout the season.

** Course may not be offered each year