

SOJO MIDDLE SCHOOL THEATRE DISCLOSURE/SYLLABUS

Intro to Theatre (1 Semester, .5 credit)

Teacher Information

- Mr. Shawn Kidd
- School phone (801) 412-2900
- shawn.kidd@jordandistrict.org (preferred method of contact)
- Rm 710 (Choir room) and Kiva (Auditorium)
- Website: <https://sites.google.com/jordandistrict.org/sojochoirtheatre/>
- There are no prerequisites for this course

Course Description

This is an introductory course in theatre with an emphasis on performance and playwriting. No previous experience is necessary. The course will include, but not be limited to improvisation, monologues, characterization, movement, playwriting, and work with voice projection and diction. Other skills learned and developed include critical thinking, rehearsal skills, plot structure, reading, writing, and cooperative group work. (Source: <https://counseling.jordandistrict.org/catalog/middle/finearts/>)

Student Learning Objectives (SLO)

At the successful conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

- Create a character using voice and movement
- Perform at least one monologue suitable for use as an audition piece
- Explain the roles of actors, authors, and technical crew members in a production
- Understand the purpose and dynamics of the rehearsal process

Textbook(s) and Class Resources (print and other media):

- *Exploring Theatre* (Jackson and Price)-checked out to the student
- Online scripts and monologues
- Monologues, duet scenes, and short multi-character scenes provided by the teacher
- Online videos (mainly YouTube) of theatre performances, topics in theatre history, careers in theatre, and other theatre-related topics.
- G-rated films and PG-rated films or excerpts from films (with prior notice to parents for PG-rated films-please see the attached disclosure acknowledgement/media permission form)

Classroom Rules/Policies:

Drama classes require good participation (individually and as a group) and a great attitude. Attendance is important for each student and for those with whom you are working and performing. If you know that you will be gone frequently or are uncomfortable or unwilling to participate in class activities and performances, you should not continue in this class.

- **Ready in Five:** When we are doing work individually or in small groups it can sometimes get noisy while people are practicing lines or having discussions. When Mr. Kidd needs your attention he will say, "Ready in Five, Four, Three, Two, One" and students are expected to quickly finish their activities or conversations and be quietly ready for instruction. Students who are not ready may receive a re-focus form to complete and parents/guardians may be contacted. Continuing disruptions will result in a parent conference and/or office referrals.

- **Four on the Floor:** Please keep all four legs of your chair on the floor. Do not touch anyone else's chair. Students who do not keep the legs of the chair on the floor or who pull on other students' chairs will lose their chair for the rest of the period. Recurring violations will result in parent contact and/or office referral.
- **No Food, Drinks, or Gum:** Water in a water bottle is fine, but no other food, snacks, drinks, or gum are allowed in class without teacher approval. If you have a documented medical need to have food in class, please let Mr. Kidd know on the Disclosure Acknowledgement Form attached at the end of this document.
- **No Phones or Electronics:** No phones, earbuds, headphones, or other electronic devices should be out without teacher permission. "Out" means visible, such as in a student's hands or sitting on the chair next to them. This includes your school-issued laptop. If we are using the laptop or personal electronics during class for instruction, Mr. Kidd will let students know. Students who have their phones out during class may have them taken and sent to the office according to school policy. (Please let Mr. Kidd know if a medical exception is necessary for cell phone use.)
- **Be Respectful:** This includes being respectful of the teacher, the classroom equipment, materials issued to you, and other people. Profanity, name calling, teasing, bullying, racial slurs, or other language that is demeaning or disrespectful to others is not allowed. Students who chose to be disrespectful to the teacher or others may be asked to complete a re-focus form, have parents/guardians contacted, or be referred to the office.

Grading Policies:

- This course follows the school-wide grading policy. 80% of your quarterly grade is determined by your scores on assessments and 20% is determined by your scores on practice assignments.
- Most assignments and assessments will be completed during class, but there will be occasional homework. Examples include (but are not limited to) reading and finding monologues, doing character or time period research, memorizing lines, or finishing coursework begun in class.
- Assignments are graded on a 4, 3, 2, 1, 0 standards-based grading scale:
 - 4=Student demonstrates mastery and applies the knowledge (A/A+)
 - 3=Student demonstrates mastery (A-) of the tested material
 - 2=Student can show some knowledge or partial understanding (C)
 - 1=Student cannot demonstrate knowledge of the content (D)
 - 0=Student did not attempt the assignment (F)
- Please see the school website for an explanation of the conversion process from standards-based grading scale numbers to letter-based grading. If students have a score of 3 or 4 on most assignments, they are doing well in the class.
- Late work is accepted until the day BEFORE the last day of each quarter.
- Extra credit is not allowed. Students who are interested in raising their grade should make sure all assignments are completed. If there are no missing assignments, they may make arrangements with Mr. Kidd to redo assessments (tests) or practice assignments for a better grade.

Required Course Supplies

To successfully complete this course, you will need:

- Chromebook (provided by the school)
- pencil and pen

Recommended but not required

- colored pencils
- 1 or 2 highlighters

Course Schedule

Week 1 (8/22-8/26) Team Building Games, Intro to Pantomime
Week 2 (8/29-9/2) Pantomime Presentations, Producing the Play
Week 3 (9/6-9/9) Improvisation: Rules, Games, Activities
Week 4 (9/12-9/15) Choosing a Monologue, Creating a Character, Memorization and Focus
Week 5 (9/19-9/23) Audition skills/Monologue presentations/Evaluations
Week 6 (9/26-9/29) Greek Theatre and Oedipus Rex
Week 7 (10/3-10/7) Stage directions/Types of Theatres/Blocking
Week 8 (10/10-10/14) Asian Theatre
Week 9 (10/17-10/20) Bunraku Puppets (Gyre and Gimble paper puppets), Midterm
FALL BREAK (10/24-10/28)
Week 10 (10/31-11/3) Choosing and preparing short scenes
Week 11 (11/7-11/11) Presenting and evaluating short scenes
Week 12 (11/14-11/18) Medieval Theatre
Thanksgiving Week (11/21-11/22) Intro to Playwriting
Week 13 (11/28-12/2) Voice and Diction/Acting for Film
Week 14 (12/5-12/9) Playwriting
Week 15 (12/12-12/16) Play reading, Designing a Set, Basic Lighting
Week 16 (12/19-12/21) Light Plots/Light Cue Sheets
Week 17 (1/3-1/6) Costume Design, Musical Theatre
Week 18 (1/9-1/13) Identifying Elements of Musical Theatre: *The Music Man*

Additional Information

- **Canvas:** Many of the assignments for this course must be submitted through Canvas. Students are expected to log into Canvas frequently and to submit assignments by the due dates listed. Not all assignments will be done through Canvas, and the Canvas gradebook should NOT be considered accurate since it does not show all class assignments.
- **Skyward:** The official gradebook for this course is the one in Skyward. It will contain the scores for all graded assignments in the class. Although Mr. Kidd tries to grade assignments in a timely manner, occasionally Skyward will flag an assignment as missing that actually has not been entered yet. This will be shown with an asterisk (*). Students are welcome to check with Mr. Kidd if they have submitted an assignment that does not have a score to make sure it was received.
- Students and parents are welcome to email Mr. Kidd at any time, but should not expect an immediate response to emails outside of school hours, especially late in the evening.
- Auditions for NEWSIES JR are September 6 and 7. Callbacks are September 8. Participation in Newsies is NOT required, but students are encouraged to audition. More information about the show is available on the class website.

Parent/Guardian Disclosure/Syllabus Form

SOUTH JORDAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Course Name: Intro to Theatre

Instructor: Mr. Shawn Kidd

Email contact: shawn.kidd@jordandistrict.org

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I look forward to teaching your student in the coming semester. Thank you for taking the time to read the course disclosure. Never hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns.

Instructions to Parent/Guardian: After carefully reading the disclosure, detach this (entire) page and return it with your student.

Student's Name (print) _____

Period student is registered for class: _____

I have read and reviewed the disclosure (please circle): Yes No

Parent/Guardian Name (Print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (Sign) _____

Date: _____

Home Phone # _____

Parent/Guardian Mobile Phone # _____

E-mail Address _____

My student may watch the following G and PG-rated films (this list is used for all Mr. Kidd's classes. Your student will only watch some of these):

The Sound of Music (G)
Hello, Dolly (G)
Fiddler on the Roof (G)
You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown (Not Rated)
Newsies (PG)
The Music Man (G)
Singin' in the Rain (G)
That Thing You Do (PG-original theatrical release)
Beethoven Lives Upstairs (Not Rated)

Emmet Otter's Jug Band Christmas (Not Rated, Jim Henson's Muppets)
A Christmas Carol (Not Rated, musical starring Kelsey Grammar)
The King and I (G)
Seven Brides for Seven Brothers (G)
The Wizard of Oz (G)
West Side Story (Not Rated)
Fantasia 2000 (G)
My Fair Lady (G)
WALL-E (G)

Parent/Guardian Signature _____