

Technical Theatre I

2019-2020 Course Syllabus
Ms. Stokes | L104B | 533-7779
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Course Description:

Technical Theatre 1 is an introductory course, which explores the backstage world of theatre. Students will investigate several areas of production and design from both a practical and a theoretical base. Students will be given the opportunity to learn about the following areas of technical theatre production:

- Theatre and Shop Safety
- Scenic design fundamentals and set construction
- Use and operation of the counterweight (fly) system
- Technical aspects and basic operation of lighting technology
- Technical aspects and basic operation of sound technology
- Scenic painting
- Use of properties on stage and construction
- Theatre History
- Explore career opportunities in the realm of theatre.

Demonstrations and discussions will be an essential part of the class day making **appropriate student participation very important**. All students will be given the opportunity to apply skills acquired in the class during the productions that occur at Lake Travis High School. Students are encouraged to take an active role in all productions. Students will be required to participate in **at least one** after school event (s) that equals 5 hours of work and/or after school shop hours that will be available throughout the school year.

The primary and most important concept in this class is safety.

Textbooks:

Occasionally we will refer to *Scene Design & Stage Lighting 8th ed.*, which is a class set. We may also use trade magazines for research and projects.

Materials:

All students must bring a binder with paper for note taking and pockets for storing handouts. Each student is also required to bring a pen or pencil to every class. We will refer back to handouts frequently; quizzes and previous tests are excellent sources for studying...Don't lose your papers!

- **To protect your feet from a variety of hazards in the theaters and shops you must wear closed-toe shoes that cover your entire foot during every class and at every crew call – Have them on at the beginning of class!**

Optional Materials:

- Safety Glasses (We do provide glasses for students, but it is always nice to have your own.)
- Ear protection

Attendance:

Tardies and absences will be handled according to school policy. Students entering class late or returning from an absence should seek out information missed without disturbing the class.

Grading:

Each student must complete 2.5 hours of scenic construction work or a 2.5 hour event per semester outside of school over the course of the year. This will count as 20% of the student's midterm and final exam. Students may select dates and times that work with their schedule throughout the year, and it is always permissible to do the full 5 hours during the Fall Semester. Keep in mind that the second semester is more limited for shop hours, as our last production concludes in March, however events will continue until the end of the school year.

Students should complete all assignments by the due date. A student may turn in an assignment one class period late for a maximum grade of 70 no more than 3 times per semester. Excused absences allow a student one class day per class day missed to make up work. A student may re-attempt an assignment for a maximum grade of 90.

Should a student fail a test or project, it is the student's responsibility to approach the teacher outside of class to schedule tutorial and re-test within a week of the failing grade being posted. Re-testing allows students earn up to half of the points missed up to a 90% per school policy.

I assume that each student comes to class ready to participate, therefore you will start each class with a 100 for the day. Those students who choose not to participate in class discussions, demonstrations and activities or choose to disrupt the class will receive a grade of zero for that day. **You will receive a ZERO for a daily grade for each day you attend my class without proper shoes.** Failure to bring other required materials will be grounds for a zero for the day. Participation grades will be taken each day, and then averaged into a weekly participation grade.

Nine-weeks grade is weighted as follows:

Classwork, Participation & Quizzes:	40%
Tests:	60%

The semester average is determined as follows:

1 st Nine Weeks Average:	45%
2 nd Nine Weeks Average:	45%
Final Exam:	10%

To exempt the Spring Final Exam, **in addition to the school requirements**, students must work an event in the Performing Arts Center or attend a work of theatre and turn in a Production Evaluation Form that can be found on the Schoology Home Page.

Academic Integrity:

Many of our activities are done in teams. However, individual assignments, quizzes and tests are to be completed solely and completely by the student whose name appears on the assignment. Plagiarism, collusion and/or any other form of cheating will not be tolerated. The Honor Code is in full effect in this class. See the school honor code for procedures.

Course Requirements:

- 1) **Active Participation:** Due to the interactive nature of the material presented in this course, **active and appropriate** class participation is essential! Students are expected to remain quiet while an instructor or student is speaking. Please raise your hand if you have something to contribute. Students' active participation grade is based on attitude and active involvement in the day's activity. Shoes that cover the entire foot must be worn each and every day; No exceptions! This is for your safety. I will verbally notify any student who receives a zero.

- 2) **Projects:** Projects are assigned periodically throughout the semester. These projects are designed to give students the opportunity to apply the knowledge learned in class to practical theatrical applications and are, therefore, very important.. See the call board/Schoology for when builds are happening.
 - A) **Portfolio:** Students will be completing several design projects which will result in one cohesive portfolio at the end of the year. Students will be expected to keep these assignments throughout the year. There will be several checkpoints each 9 weeks.
- 3) **Quizzes:** Students will take a short objective quiz once every 1-2 weeks. These quizzes are designed to help students stay caught up on the information presented in class and to evaluate each student's understanding of the material.
- 4) **Tests:** Tests may consist of essay and objective questions, however, not all tests will be written (e.g. Tool use checkouts, the Counterweight Fly System, etc.).
- 5) **Extra Credit:** Students may earn extra credit by earning production hours (either working in the shop or working a production) above the required minimum of 5 hours.

Classroom Management Guidelines:

In my classroom, I have the following expectations:

The rules are for you and your fellow student's safety—there are no exceptions!

I will not tolerate any student stopping me from teaching or another student from learning.

I will not tolerate any student engaging in any behavior that is not in his or her best interest or in the best interest of others.

You have a choice: Follow the rules and enjoy the class, or misbehave and accept the consequences of your actions.

Each student will read thoroughly, and sign that he or she agrees to follow all the rules associated with operating a safe and efficient theater in an additional safety rules memo. The following rules cover my expectations of your behavior each day in the classroom:

1. Students must bring all required materials to class every day...including shoes!
2. Absolutely no food, drink or gum is allowed in the Performing Arts Center.
3. Cellular phones, iPods and all other portable electronic devices should be completely silenced and put away during class time.
4. Students are expected to work until the bell rings. If the teacher or a student is talking when the bell rings, students will remain quietly listening until the teacher dismisses the class.
5. Students will never be dismissed until the shop is completely clean. We will always stop work to allow ample time for cleanup.
6. Littering as well as tampering with or destroying set pieces, furniture, fixtures or equipment will not be tolerated. This is YOUR facility, keep it nice!
7. Treat your classmates and your teacher with respect and kindness.
8. The items covered in the safety memo, as well as all other safety rules covered in class must be obeyed 100% of the time. Not following safety rules can result in serious injury or death.
9. Obey directions of the instructor the first time and whenever possible, try not to give him a hard time.
10. If you're unsure about ANYTHING, ASK!!

Contact Information:

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Should your parents need to get in touch with you during a crew call, they may call the Stage Manager's phone: (512) 533-5942.

Students and parents who have questions or concerns about this course, or who have extenuating circumstances that should be considered, are encouraged to come and talk with their instructor. We are available for conferences by appointment. We are looking forward to a successful semester!

Thank you! *-Laura Stokes & Aaron Stahlecker*