

## Drama II : Course Syllabus

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Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Hi. Welcome to Drama II - an advanced class. This syllabus will help us work together for our students' success. Please read it with your student, sign one copy, and keep the other as reference. A bit about me. I'm an East Coast guy, living in Colorado since 1975. This is my twenty-sixth year teaching in DPS and tenth at TJ. I am passionate about family, our students, teaching theatre, photography, travel, and reading, and am kind of an old school/new school blend. I believe learning should be fun, and relate well to today's young people, but also believe that challenging, hard work is good for the body and soul. My goal is for all students, even those who may not have a successful track record, to succeed and enjoy learning in our class. I love what I do, and am literally a guy living the dream.

### The Class

Our class runs on mutual respect: the teacher respects the students, the students respect the teacher, and the students respect each other. Behavior issues in our class are rare. Our goal is to have fun while working hard. *Because cell phones can be a distraction to excellence in theatre work, all cell phones will be collected at the beginning of class and redistributed at the end of class.*

**This is a performance-based class.** Students who prepare diligently and perform on time will learn to speak and perform proficiently in front of an audience, to perform on stage, and will succeed in the class. ***Any student who is not ready to perform at their scheduled time, or is absent unexcused (in IC) for their scheduled performance, will earn a "0" for that performance with no make-up available.*** It must be this way, because theatre is this way and life is this way. If a person is scheduled to deliver a speech, or act in a performance in the real world, they cannot ask to "do it tomorrow."

Having produced and directed twenty-three shows at Denver high schools, I have picked up some valuable information and strategies to share with students. Attendance and hard work in class are essential components in a performance-based class. Students who use class time wisely and work hard in class and at home will experience the thrill of successful performing.

### Students will:

- > memorize professionally and self-written scripts, rehearse performances to an advanced, polished level, collaborating with teammates, then perform in front of an audience (their classmates.)
- > brainstorm, plan write, revise, memorize and rehearse scripts individually and in groups.
- > present dynamic performances, displaying advanced-level skills, in front of an audience.

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- > I encourage students and parents/guardians to attend **Back-to-School Night** on **September** and parent/teacher conferences throughout the school year.
- > I encourage students to audition for and attend TJ dramatic productions. This class will prepare students for dramatic auditions, and I am available for individual coaching for your audition.

Grading is according to the DPS high school grading system, computed by points. Students who consistently work hard and complete assignments on time and in a quality fashion will succeed. I look forward to a great year working with you and your student.

Best regards,

We have read this together, and will work together for success.

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Student Signature

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Parent / Guardian Signature