

Drop/Add Period Ends Friday, September 6, 2024

Boys' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School

Black American Playwrights

Fine Arts Department Elective



Semester 1

Pd. 4

0.5 credit

Instructor: Mr. C.J. Celeiro
Email: cceleiro@boyslatin.org
Office Hours: By appointment

I. Overview of the Course

Course Description

In this course, we will be reading as many scripts by significant Black American playwrights as possible! While reading these texts aloud in class, we will also engage in discussions about the representation of Black Americans in theatre, the significance of the text in relation to the time period it was written, and make predictions about what Black Americans will continue to write plays about in the future. Consider this a living book club, where we will read plays together and hone in on plot elements as they occur.

Course Objectives

- ★ To be exposed to narratives by Black American playwrights that students may otherwise not be exposed to due to the costly, less-mainstream nature of live theatre.
- ★ To determine a theme of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details.
- ★ To analyze how complex characters develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.
- ★ To exercise reading comprehension and writing skills, as they pertain to research, citations, sources, central ideas, structure, point of view, and reasoning.
- ★ To have some fun along the way.

Supplies

- ★ 1 two-inch 3-ring binder
- ★ 2 packs of college ruled notebook paper
- ★ Black or blue pens or pencils (recommended: Dixon Ticonderoga)
- ★ School issued laptop and charger

Schoolwide Course Weight

Active Participation: <i>Do Nows, Exit Tickets, Discussion Points</i>	10%
Formative Assessments: <i>Classwork, Homework, Quizzes</i>	40%
Summative Assessments: <i>Tests, Essays, Projects, Presentations</i>	50%
Total	100%

Schoolwide Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Numeric Range	GPA Points	Letter Grade	Numeric Range	GPA Points
A	93-100	4.00	C	73-76	2.00
A-	90-92	3.67	C-	70-72	1.67
B+	87-89	3.33	D+	67-69	1.33
B	83-86	3.00	D	63-66	1.00
B-	80-82	2.67	D-	60-62	0.7
C+	77-79	2.33	F*	50-60*	0*

*50 is the lowest grade given at the end of each grading period.

II. Policies

Attendance and Grading Policy

Students are responsible for completing any missed work and submitting it for credit to Mr. Celeiro. A folder will be maintained with extra handouts from the day missed; these handouts will also be available on Schoology. It is the **student's responsibility** to pick up work upon returning to school.

- ★ **Classwork/Homework:** If a student misses a day that classwork or homework is assigned, he must get the paper from the handout folder and turn it in the following school day. If a student misses the day a homework assignment is due, he must turn it in completed IMMEDIATELY upon returning to school.
- ★ **Quizzes, Tests, and In-Class Projects:** If a student is absent the day of a quiz, test, or in-class project, he must make it up IMMEDIATELY upon returning to school. This may require a day staying after school during office hours if necessary.
- ★ **Longform Projects:** When students are given several days to complete an assignment or project, they will be provided with the due date well in advance. If a student is absent on the day the project is due, he must turn the project in IMMEDIATELY upon returning to school.

Late Work Policy

All assignments will be out of 100 points.

- ★ FOR ALL ASSESSMENTS
 - Late between 1-7 days will receive a 10 point deduction.
 - Late between 8-14 days will receive a 20 point deduction.
 - Late between 15-21 days will receive a 30 point deduction.
 - Late after 21 days will be given a 0.
- ★ Students with accommodations for extension will be given those per their documentation.

Tardiness to Class

Students must report to class on time. If a student is not in the classroom and in their seat by the time the bell rings, he must have a note from a teacher or administrator before being admitted to class. Repeated tardiness will result in disciplinary action.

Bathroom & Water Policy

Students may only ask to use the bathroom or fill a water bottle **during independent work time or small group time**, and should not be outside of the room for more than 5 minutes. The bathroom and water filling station is right outside the classroom.

Cell Phones

Nope.

III. Behavioral Standards

Daily Expectations

- ★ Enter the classroom quietly in full uniform and immediately sit in your seat before the bell rings.
- ★ Read directions on the board and immediately follow them.
- ★ Stay quiet and listen while the teacher is talking.
- ★ Listen carefully to directions and follow them the first time.

Safe Space/Brave Space

A safe space is a brave space. The art of theatre is a vulnerable one. Theatre artists are asked to create for the purpose of conveying messages and entertaining people. It is very easy to feel discouraged or judged when creating any type of art. This classroom will have absolutely zero tolerance for mockery, bullying, inappropriate language, or exclusion. We are here to learn and be our best selves. To do so, we must trust this environment is a safe space for students to try something with the risk of falling on their face. If someone falls, it is not our job to call attention to it or laugh, but to raise them up so they can succeed. If everyone can commit to creating a safe space, we will all be able to rise to our full potential.

Participation

Students will take notes and participate in class discussions and activities. Any handouts, notes, or practice work should be kept in a binder that only includes work for this class. Do not use a binder from another class. Furthermore, do not clean out your binder until the semester is over. Points will be assigned for completion of classwork at the discretion of Mr. Celeiro. Additionally, because plays are meant to be **seen** and **heard** rather than read, we will occasionally read passages from texts studied aloud in class. On days when reading texts, students will be asked to verbally participate, accepting volunteers first before assigning.

Be Professional

Mr. Celeiro very famously does not tolerate unprofessional behavior, and has a reputation for logging write-ups about behavior concerns that notoriously result in administrative action. This includes, but is not limited to: eating in class, cheating, cursing, throwing objects, hitting, play-fighting, shouting, interrupting someone else who is speaking, bullying, disrespecting teachers or students, name-calling, not following instructions, breaking rules, or leaving the classroom without permission. If a student is found conducting themselves unprofessionally, they will receive a write-up. If behavior continues, students will be given detention and referred to administration.

Water Bottles

Students may have a water bottle at their desk, and are encouraged to refill it in-between classes. If necessary, simply raise your hand and ask to refill the water bottle at the station right outside the classroom **during independent work or small group time.**

What will we be doing in this class?

We are going to study as many plays by Black American Playwrights as possible. In some cases, we may watch a movie/filmed stage production in lieu of reading.

- ★ *Topdog/Underdog* by Suzan-Lori Parks
- ★ *School Girls; or, the African Mean Girls Play* by Jocelyn Bioh
- ★ *Dutchman* by Amiri Baraka
- ★ *Clyde's* by Lynn Nottage
- ★ *Passing Strange* by Stew
- ★ *Fairview* by Jackie Sibblies Drury
- ★ *The Mountaintop* by Katori Hall
- ★ *Pipeline* by Dominique Morisseau
- ★ *Thoughts of a Colored Man* by Keenan Scott II
- ★ *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf* by Ntozake Shange
- ★ *White* by James Ijames
- ★ *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* by August Wilson
- ★ *Milk Like Sugar* by Kirsten Greenidge
- ★ *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry
- ★ *Chicken & Biscuits* by Douglas Lyons

Notice on Mature Themes in Readings

The plays we read will cover a large variety of topics and themes. Many of these topics require a mature mindset in order to be able to fully participate. Some of the mature themes we will encounter include...

- ★ Profanity, including black and white characters using the n-word
- ★ Gambling
- ★ Sex
- ★ Sexual Harassment/Assault
- ★ Addiction
- ★ Colorism
- ★ Body Image
- ★ Murder/Violence
- ★ Targeted Racism
- ★ Systemic Racism
- ★ Oppression
- ★ Substance Abuse
- ★ Homosexuality
- ★ Teenage Pregnancy
- ★ Incarceration

We will not read plays that depict blackface or slavery.

Mr. Celeiro
Black American Playwrights
Course syllabus and Expectations Confirmation, 2024-2025

I have read and understand the course syllabus and class expectations for Mr. Celeiro's Black American Playwrights class. I acknowledge that I am aware of these policies and agree to abide by them to ensure success in this course. I also understand that it is my responsibility to check Schoology for material and deadlines as well as PowerSchool for grades.

Signed Contract Due by Friday, August 30, 2024. This will count as a grade.

Student's name: _____

Student's signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's name: _____

Parent/Guardian's signature: _____

Parent/Guardian's email address: _____

Parent/Guardian's phone number: _____

Parent/Guardian's preferred method of contact: _____

Date: _____

Boys' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School

Theatre Design
Enrichment Department Elective



Semester 1
Pd. 1/2/7/8
0.5 credit

Instructor: Mr. C.J. Celeiro
Email: cceleiro@boyslatin.org
Office Hours: By appointment

I. Overview of the Course

Course Description

In this course, we will be learning about all of the different technical aspects of theatre. This means we are not looking at acting, directing, or choreography, but instead looking at the *sensory* aspects of theatre, such as lights, sets, and costumes. Students will be asked to build models and create renderings (drawings) based on texts read in class, and explain how their choices as a designer support the overall narrative. We will also take a look at marketing and budgeting, two elements that seriously inform theatrical design.

Course Objectives

- ★ To become proficient in terminology/concepts surrounding design and execution.
- ★ To put aforementioned concepts into practice as one might in a professional theatrical workplace with empowered creativity.
- ★ To become aware of the importance of technical theatre, and understand how its absence and presence impact the audience experience.
- ★ To exercise reading comprehension and writing skills, as they pertain to research, citations, sources, central ideas, structure, point of view, and reasoning.
- ★ To have some fun along the way.

Supplies

- ★ 1 two-inch 3-ring binder
- ★ 2 packs of college ruled notebook paper
- ★ Pencils with erasers (recommended: Dixon Ticonderoga)
- ★ Colored pencils (optional, though strongly encouraged for this course)
- ★ School issued laptop and charger

Schoolwide Course Weight

Active Participation: <i>Do Nows, Exit Tickets, Discussion Points</i>	10%
Formative Assessments: <i>Classwork, Homework, Quizzes</i>	40%
Summative Assessments: <i>Tests, Essays, Projects, Presentations</i>	50%
Total	100%

Schoolwide Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Numeric Range	GPA Points	Letter Grade	Numeric Range	GPA Points
A	93-100	4.00	C	73-76	2.00
A-	90-92	3.67	C-	70-72	1.67
B+	87-89	3.33	D+	67-69	1.33
B	83-86	3.00	D	63-66	1.00
B-	80-82	2.67	D-	60-62	0.7
C+	77-79	2.33	F*	0-60*	0

II. Policies

Attendance and Grading Policy

Students are responsible for completing any missed work and submitting it for credit to Mr. Celeiro. A folder will be maintained with extra handouts from the day missed; these handouts will also be available on Schoology. It is the **student's responsibility** to pick up work upon returning to school.

- ★ **Classwork/Homework:** If a student misses a day that classwork or homework is assigned, he must get the paper from the handout folder and turn it in the following school day. If a student misses the day a homework assignment is due, he must turn it in completed IMMEDIATELY upon returning to school.
- ★ **Quizzes, Tests, and In-Class Projects:** If a student is absent the day of a quiz, test, or in-class project, he must make it up IMMEDIATELY upon returning to school. This may require a day staying after school during office hours if necessary.
- ★ **Longform Projects:** When students are given several days to complete an assignment or project, they will be provided with the due date well in advance. If a student is absent on the day the project is due, he must turn the project in IMMEDIATELY upon returning to school.

Late Work Policy

All assignments will be out of 100 points.

- ★ FOR ALL ASSESSMENTS
 - Late between 1-7 days will receive a 10 point deduction.
 - Late between 8-14 days will receive a 20 point deduction.
 - Late between 15-21 days will receive a 30 point deduction.
 - Late after 21 days will be given a 0.
- ★ Students with accommodations for extension will be given those per their documentation.

Tardiness

Students must report to class on time. If a student is not in the classroom and in their seat by the time the bell rings, he must have a note from a teacher or administrator before being admitted to class. Repeated tardiness will result in disciplinary action.

Bathroom & Water Policy

Students may only ask to use the bathroom or fill a water bottle **during independent work time or small group time**, and should not be outside of the room for more than 5 minutes. The bathroom and water filling station is right outside the classroom.

Cell Phones

Nope.

III. Behavioral Standards

Daily Expectations

- ★ Enter the classroom quietly and immediately sit in your seat before the bell rings.
- ★ Read directions on the board and immediately follow them.
- ★ Stay quiet and listen while the teacher is talking.
- ★ Listen carefully to directions and follow them the first time.

Safe Space/Brave Space

A safe space is a brave space. The art of theatre is a vulnerable one. Theatre artists are asked to create for the purpose of conveying messages and entertaining people. It is very easy to feel discouraged or judged when creating any type of art. This classroom will have absolutely zero tolerance for mockery, bullying, inappropriate language, or exclusion. We are here to learn and be our best selves. To do so, we must trust this environment is a safe space for students to try something with the risk of falling on their face. If someone falls, it is not our job to call attention to it or laugh, but to raise them up so they can succeed. If everyone can commit to creating a safe space, we will all be able to rise to our full potential.

Participation

Students will take notes and participate in class discussions and activities. Any handouts, notes, or practice work should be kept in a binder that only includes work for this class. Do not use a binder from another class. Furthermore, do not clean out your binder until the semester is over. Points will be assigned for completion of classwork at the discretion of Mr. Celeiro. Additionally, because plays are meant to be **seen** and **heard** rather than read, we will read several texts aloud in class. On days when reading texts, students will be asked to verbally participate, accepting volunteers first before assigning.

Be Professional

Mr. Celeiro very famously does not tolerate unprofessional behavior, and has a reputation for logging write-ups about behavior concerns that notoriously result in administrative action. This includes, but is not limited to: eating in class, cheating, cursing, throwing objects, hitting, play-fighting, shouting, interrupting someone else who is speaking, bullying, disrespecting teachers or students, name-calling, not following instructions, breaking rules, or leaving the classroom without permission. If a student is found conducting themselves unprofessionally, they will receive a write-up. If behavior continues, students will be given detention and referred to administration.

What will we be doing in this class?

You can expect assignments and projects on the following topics:

- ★ “Physical Space”: Set, set dressings, and props by reading *Little Shop of Horrors* by Howard Ashman and Alan Menken
- ★ “Atmospheric Space”: Lights and sound by reading *Chicken & Biscuits* by Douglas Lyons
- ★ “Personal Space”: Costumes, hair, wigs, makeup, and masks by reading *Once on this Island* by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty
- ★ Creating your own concept from start to finish: *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* by William Shakespeare
- ★ Special Effects
- ★ Stage Management
- ★ Marketing, budgeting, and theatre business

Mr. Celeiro
Theatre Design
Course syllabus and Expectations Confirmation, 2024-2025

I have read and understand the course syllabus and class expectations for Mr. Celeiro's Theatre Design class. I acknowledge that I am aware of these policies and agree to abide by them to ensure success in this course. I also understand that it is my responsibility to check Schoology for material and deadlines as well as PowerSchool for grades.

Signed Contract Due by Friday, August 30, 2024. This will count as a grade.

Student's name: _____

Student's signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's name: _____

Parent/Guardian's signature: _____

Parent/Guardian's email address: _____

Parent/Guardian's phone number: _____

Parent/Guardian's preferred method of contact: _____

Date: _____