***DRAMATIC ARTS: ADP 3M***

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***Course Content:***

The grade 11 Playwriting course involves an in-depth study of several of the conventions, techniques, and skills studied in NSS English and Drama courses. As well, there is an introduction to several more complex areas in drama, which require an integration of previously learned skills. Students are required to see and to critique one Grade 12 docudrama and the NSS Main Stage production and one Gr 12 One Act play. Areas which are examined and which make up 70% of the course include the following:

1. **Beginning to Write:** Students engage in activities to help establish an effective drama learning environment, including collaboration, listening and responding, reflection and discussion. Creative writing assignments will guide the students on a journey of self-discovery and disclosure. The unit will culminate in a personal presentation in which the students will explore issues and concerns raised in their personal journal writing.
2. **Classics:** Students will read and research a renowned literary work to adapt into a 8-10 minute abridged script. These condensed classics will combine excerpts of the published text and student writing so that the primary plotline is communicated in dramatic form. These scripts will be produced with full theatrical values for an invited audience. A handout will be distributed with specific details regarding the task and rubrics will be discussed and posted. Reflection of both process and product provide opportunities for critical thinking: students will analyze, explain and justify their thoughts.
3. **Canadian Theatre:** Students will visit Tarragon Theatre where they will participate in a playwriting workshop that explores the history of Canadian theatre and its focus upon collective creation and environmental theatre. Students will work in groups to create a piece of environmental theatre that is inspired by a space provided by the theatre as well as excerpts from historically significant Canadian plays. These works will be performed at night at Tarragon Theatre for a public audience.
4. **Elements of Playwriting:** Students are led though a number of writing exercises that help them isolate the elements of dramatic writing and identify the types of themes, stories and characters they will be interested in exploring in their plays. They are introduced to the major elements of drama (plot, character, thought, language, rhythm and spectacle) and experiment with writing prompts and improvisation as well as reading and analyzing plays to develop their understanding of the art of playwriting. They will write a proposal for a 20-30 minute play, pitch their idea to the class, complete a series of planning activities and be guided throughout the writing process as they complete the task of writing a short one act play.
5. **Final Culminating Activity:** Through a series of collaborative activities and presentations, students will continue to explore the essentials of writing for the theatre through the creation of short plays, scenes and monologues that are inspired by a variety of sources. A variety of strategies will be used in the development of these pieces including interactive exercises, improvisation and workshop techniques. The final presentation will be in the form of a Readers’ Theatre presentation that will be performed either in class or at the Northern Lights Art Show. Students may select their 5-10minutes of text from either their One Act play or they may choose to develop one of their “Monthly Measures” pieces. A handout will be distributed with specific details regarding the task and rubrics will be discussed and posted.

***Evaluation:***

You are evaluated on an individual basis by your teacher. Peer and self-assessments are also used in drama; however, these assessments do not impact your report card mark. There are no group marks in drama. Teachers will use “rubrics” which are designed by the teacher and/or the class and which show exactly what is being looked for in daily work and assignments. You will be marked on communication (the conveying of meaning through various forms), application of knowledge and skills, knowledge and understanding (subject specific theory), and thinking (use of critical and creative thinking skills and/or processes).

***Evaluation Tasks***

**Communication (30%):** **Applications (30%) Thinking (20%) Knowledge (20%)**

***Formative (70%) –***

Personal Pres Perform (10%) Personal Pres Script (10%) Monthly Measures (10%)

Classic Perform (10%) Classic Process (10%) Classic Script (10%) 3 Play Reviews (10%)

Tarragon Perform (10%) Tarragon Process (10%) Tarragon Script (10%)

***Summative (30%) –***

Reader’s Theatre Script (30%) Final One Act (30%) Reader’s Theatre Process (10%) One Act Proposal (20%) One Act Process Work (10%)

***Attendance:*** Due to the participatory nature of this course and the fact that students are evaluated daily, regular attendance is essential for success. Students must provide a note explaining their absence upon returning to the classroom. The “show must go on” applies to drama presentations. If a member of the group is absent on performance day, the group will be required to present making required modifications. If a student misses a presentation without notifying the teacher in advance, he/she may receive a zero. Teachers will attempt to accommodate student absence if they are informed 72 hours prior to the day of evaluation. If students are ill on the day of presentation, they must phone the drama department and leave a message. Due to the group work nature of drama, make-up assignments are atypical.

***Homework****:* You will be required to see the Docudramas, One Acts and Main Stage. You will write play reviews on these productions in addition to reflection papers over the course of the year. You will be given time in class for writing assignments: however, if you are absent, it is your responsibility to check with your peers or teacher to get caught up on the work. 10% may be deducted for late submissions and, after 5 days, you may receive a zero. This late policy does not apply to work that is need for use in the classroom. You will receive a zero if your scripts are not ready for the in class work. Monthly Measure scenes will not be accepted late; however, they can be submitted early to insure that you do not miss the deadline. Monthly Measure assignments will be assigned and collected, generally speaking, on the first Friday of every month (there may be some exceptions to this rule). Don’t miss Friday classes! Keep ALL your work in a playwriting binder as, at the end of the year, you will be required to hand in your process work with your Final copy of your One Act script. This process work is worth 10% of your final mark!

***YOU NEED:*** A playwriting binder (or section in a binder), a USB key, lined paper & writing materials. Bring these to class every day! Know your TDSB login – user name and password! Make sure that your word processing program at home is compatible with the school’s version of Word. (.docx - 2010) You may use a laptop in class; however, you must print your work at home or in the library.

***CLASSROOM ROUTINES****:* You will be working in Room 225 (Drama Studio). When you are in the Drama studio: enter through the proper door and place your shoes and bags in the appropriate place. Only water is allowed. No gum. Sit in the circle...do not lie down, sit on chairs, or lean against the wall. No talking out during question of the day...listen to the responses of your classmates. All handouts and writings should be kept in a section in your binder. We are not responsible for lost or stolen items. Students are not to bring real or imitation weapons of any kind to school to use as props. TDSB policy dictates that students in possession of imitation weapons will be suspended from school and may face expulsion.

***CODE OF BEHAVIOR****:* RESPECT self, others, the work and environment. LISTEN openly and attentively. AVOID PUT DOWNS. PRACTICE CONFIDENTIALITY. Drama is always about people, for people and with people. To be successful you must get involved, give what you can, take risks, and be supportive, respectful and encouraging. It won’t always be easy, but positive effort will result in far more than just good marks.

***Profanity and Sensitive Content****:* All material must be classroom appropriate and adhere to TDSB policies regarding sensitive language and content. No profanity, gratuitous violence, weapons or drug related content is permitted.