

# The Dragon Academy ~ Course Syllabus 2007-2008

---

FORM 2 ~ Dramatic Arts  
Instructor: Ms. Ashkenazy

## Course Description

This course requires students to actively explore dramatic forms and techniques, using their own ideas and concerns as well as sources selected from a wide range of myths and stories, genres, and cultures. Student learning will include identifying and using the principles of space, time, voice, and movement in creating, sustaining, and communicating authentic roles within a drama. Students will assume responsibility for decisions made in the creation and presentation of the drama, and will analyze and reflect on the experience.

## Units of Study

UNIT	UNIT TITLE	TIME
1	Introduction to Drama – Basic Skills	34 hours
2	Character	34 hours
3	Play Analysis and Critique	20 hours
4	History: Jesters, Tricksters and Fools	12 hours
5	Performance/Analysis	10 hours
		TOTAL: 110 hours

### **Unit 1: Introduction to Drama – Basic Skills**

**Time: 34 hours**

Description:

Students are introduced to the class through a series of high energy, ice-breaking, co-operative games which help them break down their inhibitions, encourage risk-taking, foster self-awareness and build team spirit. Rules, structures, and routines are set in place and by the end of the unit the student will have skills to discuss the nature of acting as a craft and an art, while participating in drama activities.

### **Unit 2: Character**

**Time: 34 hours**

Description:

Character work is about the student learning to observe the world around them, understand differences among people, appreciate unique qualities, and explore ways to play a character in a meaningful way. Character work will lead the

student to a better understanding of others, and ultimately of themselves. They will learn various methods of approaching character work, acting styles and skills.

### **Unit 3: Play Analysis and Critique**

**Time: 20 hours**

Description:

This unit will go over the structure of plays themselves. The students will read, analyze and perform a number of plays. The following things about plays and how a drama group constructs one will be studied: types of plays and their structures, text analysis, blocking, stage directions, and reasons for stage movement, steps in directing, components of a play review.

### **Unit 4: History: Jesters, Tricksters and Fools**

**Time: 12 hours**

Description:

The focus of this unit is to look at the existence of the Jester, Trickster and Fool as they exist across so many cultures. Students explore what they are, both through student exercises and from the work of other writers, historians and artists. Students will become familiar with and experiment with the commedia style and learn what the keys are to becoming a good clown.

### **Unit 5: Performance/Analysis**

**Time: 10 hours**

Description:

This summative unit allows students to demonstrate the skills and knowledge gained during the course while applying what they have learned to the context of a final presentation. Students will have a direct participation in the piece being performed in a variety of areas. They will reflect on their own work and the work of others in the performance.

### **Policies and Procedures:**

#### **Code Of Conduct**

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that promotes a safe, orderly learning environment within the school, shows respect for the rights of others, and helps preserve the property and equipment provided for the use of students. Student efforts in meeting this expectation will minimize the need for school-directed discipline, and self-discipline should be each student's foremost objective. Students who fail to meet the expectations set forth above may be subject to disciplinary action.

## **Preparation**

Being properly prepared to work every day is an essential component of success in this course. Students should bring their notebook and writing instruments to each class.

Notebook            A three-ring binder (for use solely in this course), or ringed notebook is recommended.

## **Care Of School Equipment And Property**

Materials loaned to students remain the property of The Dragon Academy. Each student is responsible for materials given to them. When students are finished using the loaned materials, they are to be returned to the teacher promptly. Damage or loss of materials obligates the student to replace the lost or damaged equipment.