

# SYLLABUS

Express | Analyze | Create



## Why Acting?

Consider this quotation from the book, *A Whole New Mind* by David Pink:

*"...the keys to the kingdom are changing hands. The future belongs to a very different kind of person with a very different kind of mind...creators and empathizers, pattern-recognizers and meaning-makers. These people - artists, inventors, designers, storytellers, and big picture thinkers will now reap society's richest rewards and share in its greatest joys."*

Why Acting? Because it encompasses the very skills that 21st Century learners will need in order to be successful in their jobs & life...and it's one of the few courses that focuses on these skills almost exclusively.

## Purpose of the Course:

Acting is an introductory course designed to encourage individuals of ALL talent levels to "step out of their comfort zones" in order to develop individual and group communication & performance skills through the art of theatre.

## Unit 1: Stage

*What constitutes art?*

*How do ideas take form?*

*What do we "believe" as authentic & why?*

Composition (i.e. the arrangement of "parts" to create a unified "whole") is an important concept in acting/theatre...and learning how to put artistic "parts" together cohesively and creatively is the focus of the first unit in this course. Through various games and activities, this unit will teach a learner the cognitive & creative abilities needed to develop "**big picture thinking**" as well as how to create strong compositions on stage. **Stage terms** and **stage directions** will also be covered in this unit in order to give students a common "language" for their work in this class and on stage.

## Unit 2: Story

*What does a great story "look" like?*

*What moves a story forward?*

*What makes humans laugh?*

The ability to **craft a compelling narrative** is important not only on stage, but also in almost every profession and part of life in the 21st century. Through acting exercises and activities, this unit will encourage students to discover creative and compelling ways to share information and emotions through the art, craft, and structure of a powerful story. These activities will include analyzing and creating stories both with scripts, and without (i.e. improvisation).

## Unit 3: ...aaand Scene!

*What does acting teach us about the human condition?*

*How do past experiences influence present responses?*

*In what ways does art imitate life (or vice versa?)*

Creating a believable character on stage is a difficult skill...but it's one that *can* be learned by *any* student who has a strong desire to improve his/her acting or communication abilities. In this unit, students will explore various methods and ways to physically and emotionally portray **believable characters and interactions** on stage. At the end of the unit, students will perform a final scene with a scene partner.

## Assignments:

Since this is a process and performance-based course, much of the course's work is done in class. However, ALL of the **course content** learned in class is also available online ([www.kristaprice.com](http://www.kristaprice.com) - Click Educator" / "Acting" / then "Schedule" - or current unit). Additionally, any *new* concepts, terms, or ideas introduced in class can also be learned outside of class by instructor-made **videos**.

All of the course's **teaching videos** can be accessed in 3 different ways: 1.) via my website ([www.kristaprice.com](http://www.kristaprice.com)), 2.) on youtube (search by title), or 3.) on iTunes U (for viewing on your ipod). Note: If you do not have any of this technology, Ms. Price can give you a DVD...see her ASAP!

## Grading:

- 50% **Summative** Assessments
- 30% **Formative** Assessments
- 10% = **Written Critique** (of a live stage show)
- 10% = **Theatre Hours** (8 required)

The **exam** is worth 15% of your final grade.

If you meet the following requirements in all your classes, you do NOT have to take the exam:

- You have had 3 or fewer absences\* (with no suspensions)
- You have a minimum grade of 73% in the class OR minimum grade of 65% AND no missing assignments/assessments
- You have not plagiarized during the course.

\*(3 tardies = 1 absence for this incentive)

## Absences:

All absent students are responsible for what they miss in class, whether the absence is excused or not. Because I post all activities and assignments daily, checking this information is **your responsibility**, and must be done **BEFORE** you return to class. I do not answer the questions "What did I miss?" or "What happened while I was gone?". The answers to those questions are online daily, and because this is a process-based course, it is required (and in your best interest) for you to be caught up before you return!

## Absent Work:

Absent work is due upon your return (see above) and is your responsibility. (I won't ask you for it.)

If you miss a day that involves participation points, you are excused from the assignment...unless the participation assignment is on-going.

If you are absent on the day of a performance, plan to perform first the next time you are in class.

## Late Work:

Ms. Price generally accepts late work, so be sure to complete all assignments. (She will let you know, however, if specific assignments will NOT be accepted late.) No extensions will be granted on group/partner performances. (All students must be ready to perform on performance due dates.)

## Extra Credit:

You are expected to give your best for every activity/assignment in this course the **FIRST** time. Extra credit is generally not offered. Don't ask.

GRADING SCALE:		B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A	93-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	65-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	E	below 65