

COURSE OUTLINE **Children's Theatre**

Course Description

TA 131. Children's Theatre. 3 hours credit. This course will enable the student to heighten his/her awareness of children's literature and gain proficiency in performing live theatre in front of an elementary school audience.

Course Relevance

Through this course the student will learn the skills needed to create a theatrical production for children. Additionally, the student will learn about the customs and traditions unique to different cultures, regions and time periods.

Required Materials

The literature/text will be supplied by the instructor and determined by the theatre form (e.g. Kabuki, Egyptian, Classical, etc.) to be studied and researched in the given semester.

Supplemental Materials

Daily Journal

Learning Outcomes

The intention is for the student to be able to

1. Be able to differentiate between children's theatre and traditional theatre
2. Have developed acting skills appropriate for performing for pre-elementary and elementary students
3. Be able to build a theatrical character from first read through to final performance
4. Demonstrate and understand the genre of children's theatre through the performance of a children's play

Primary Learning PACT Skills that will be DEVELOPED and/or documented in this course

Through the student's involvement in this course, he/she will develop his/her ability in the following primary PACT skill areas:

1. Aesthetic Response
 - Through the rehearsal and performance of a piece of children's dramatic literature the student will interpret the material from his/her perspective and life experiences.
2. Writing
 - Through a daily journal the student will form responses to the literature and rehearsal process.

Secondary skills (developed but not documented):

- Reading
- Valuing Diversity
- Ethical Conduct
- Listening
- Speaking
- Teamwork

Major Summative Assessment Task(s)

These learning outcomes and the primary Learning PACT skills will be demonstrated by

1. Participating in a main stage performance of a Children's Theatre production
2. Summarizing his/her journal record of observations of the rehearsal process and performances

Course Content

- I. Themes – Key recurring concepts that run throughout this course:
 - A. Basic acting principles
 - B. Appreciation for children's theatrical literature
- II. Issues – Key areas of conflict that must be understood in order to achieve the intended outcome:
 - A. Art vs. craft
 - B. Children's literature vs. traditional forms
- III. Concepts – Key concepts that must be understood to address the issues:
 - A. An approach to building a character
 - B. Literary genres
- IV. Skills/Competencies – Actions that are essential to achieve the course outcomes:
 - A. Bring a personality, unique to the student, to a character from children's dramatic literature to a performance

Learning Units

- I. Historical/Regional research
 - A. Geographical
 - B. Political
 - C. Social
 - D. Artistic
- II. Character analysis
 - A. Objectives
 - B. Tactics
 - C. Expectations
- III. Staging
 - A. Stage areas
 - B. Stage positions
 - C. Stage pictures

Learning Activities

Learning activities will be directed toward rehearsal and performance.

Grade Determination

The students grade is determined by performance, attitude, and participation.