

WLHS THEATRE ARTS  
STEVEN BECKINGHAM  
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(503) 673-7815 ext. 4953

OFFICE HOURS: By arrangement

## **ACTING II COURSE INFORMATION**

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** This course is a continuation of Acting I and will focus on specialty techniques, styles, and genres. Students will analyze and interpret modern theatrical works that span various styles. Students will develop their acting skills through exercises, monologues, and scene work.

### **COURSE TOPICS AND GUIDING QUESTIONS:**

- I. Ensemble Building:** How does true ensemble work inform performance?
- II. The Magic If:** What are the essential ingredients for successful performance? What if you were in the shoes of someone else?
- III. The Dramatic Scene:** How can an actor enrich emotional memory, which might inform performance?
- IV. The Farce:** How does rhythm and tempo inform comedic story telling?
- V. Absurdist/Epic Theatre:** How can explicit, non-realistic storytelling engage an audience?
- VI. Dialect:** How do different dialects inform theatrical style and mannerisms?
- VII. Monologues:** How can vulnerability be advantageous towards successful performance?

**TEXTS:** (supplied by instructor) *The Stanislavski System* by Sonia Moore  
*The Actor and the Target* by Declan Donnellan

*The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams

*Noises Off* by Michael Frayn, *Rumors* by Neil Simon, or *See How They Run* by Philip King

*Top Girls* by Caryl Churchill or *Mother Courage and Her Children* by Bertolt Brecht, or *Exit the King* by Eugene Ionesco

## EXPECTATIONS:

Students are expected to attend all class sessions, arrive on time, participate in class activities, and treat all members of the class community with respect, compassion, and kindness. Disrespect and or/judgement towards peers and/or the teacher will not be tolerated.

**CELL PHONES OFF AND PUT AWAY FOR THE ENTIRE DURATION OF CLASS! I do have a phone safe in which students can place phones. In doing so, a student can earn .5 extra credit point each time they do it. (added to participation grade)**

**GRADING:** 100%-90% A 89%-80% B (+/-) 79%-70% C (+/-) 69%-60% D (+/-)

- Participation/Collaboration 20%
- Assignments/Projects 15%
- Portfolios 10%
- Exams 15%
- Performance 20%
- Final
  - Performance-Monologue 10%
  - Analysis Essay 10%

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

Students will be required to maintain a class portfolio (to include notes, assignments, quizzes reflections, ideas, etc.) throughout the semester. Ideally, this would be a thin three-ring binder with dividers for different units and sections. **Portfolios must be neatly organized.** Portfolios will be checked periodically. There will be 5 total points possible for each check. Students will get at least 3 days notice before a portfolio check.

## RESOURCES:

WLHS Theatre Arts Blog: <http://www.wlhstheatre.org>

Google Classroom: <https://classroom.google.com>

Steve's School Website: <http://www.wlhs.wlsv.k12.or.us/Page/3344>

Grades: <http://www2.wlhs.wlsv.k12.or.us/SMStuff/>

“Let it Live”