



Barack Obama Academy of International Studies

515 N. Highland Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Phone: 412-529-5980 | Fax: 412-622-5983



September, 2016

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Obama Academy's Theatre Arts IB course! Theatre Arts IB is a comprehensive two-year program. The program aims to help you understand the nature of the theatre; to understand it by making it as well as studying it; to understand it not only with your minds but with your senses, your bodies and your emotions; to understand the form it takes in cultures other than your own; and through this understanding better the understanding of yourself, your society and your world. Throughout this course you will develop performance skills through working on devised and scripted scenes, which will be presented to an audience. The material we will study will cover various areas and time periods of drama. From Greek tragedies to Nigerian, every unit of study has analytical components followed by performance techniques. You will also study drama from the point of view of the director and will investigate methods of turning a script into performance. Practical exploration of theatre from different cultures is also a key element in the course.

The Course at a Glance

The theatre core syllabus at HL and SL consists of three interrelated areas. Students are required to explore these three areas from the perspective of dramaturge, director, performer, group ensemble, production team and spectator.

Theatre in Context

This area of the syllabus addresses the students' understanding that theatre does not occur in a vacuum. Students examine the personal, theoretical and cultural contexts that inform theatre-making and the ways in which these affect and influence creating, designing, directing, performing and spectating.

Theatre Processes

This area of the syllabus addresses the students' exploration of the skills, techniques and processes involved in theatre-making. Students reflect on their own creative processes and skills acquisition as well as gaining a practical understanding of the processes of others; creators, designers, directors and performers.

Presenting Theatre

This area of the syllabus addresses the staging and presentation of theatre as well as the presentation of ideas, research and discoveries through diverse modes of presentation, both practical and written. Students consider the impact theatre can have on the spectator. They are encouraged to think about their own artistic intentions as creators, designers, directors and performers and the impact they wish to have on an audience.

The Materials

- A three-ring binder with clear cover
- Your body (including voice)
- Your mind (including imagination)
- Your spirit (including passion and self-confidence)

Homework, Late work, Grading Policy

Whether it is reading, writing, or rehearsing, there will be work for theatre every night. To be regarded "on time", work must be completed and submitted by the beginning of the period on the day it is due. Printing assignments during class time or having a flash drive is not considered "on time". Unfinished homework is not accepted. **Short homework assignments** will be stamped "on time" only at the beginning of the period and are not accepted if late. **Larger homework assignments** may be turned in late with a 5% penalty for each day late.

In the case of excused absences, your work is due upon your return. Work due on the day of an unexcused absence receives a zero. **Missed assessments** must be completed no later than one day from a student's return. Please make an appointment





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with me for the morning or after school, otherwise the missed assessment results in a zero. The grading criterion is as follows: assessment: 5%, participation: 15%, practical (theatre in the making, performance, and world): 40%, theoretical (theatre in the world): 40%. **There will be no opportunities for extra credit**, so please take your work seriously.

IBDP Assessments

External Assessment

Task 1: Solo theatre piece (Higher Level Only 35%)

Students at HL research a theatre theorist they have not previously studied, identify an aspect(s) of their theory and create and present a solo theatre piece (4–8 minutes) based on this aspect(s) of theory.

Task 2: Director's notebook (Standard 35% and Higher Level 20%)

Students at SL and HL choose a published play text they have not previously studied and develop ideas regarding how it could be staged for an audience.

Task 3: Research presentation (Standard 30% and Higher Level 20%)

Students at SL and HL plan and deliver an individual presentation (15 minutes maximum) to their peers in which they outline and physically demonstrate their research into a convention of a theatre tradition they have not previously studied.

Internal assessment

Task 4: Collaborative project (Standard 35% and Higher Level 25%)

Students at SL and HL collaboratively create and present an original piece of theatre (lasting 13–15 minutes) for and to a specified target audience, created from a starting point of their choice.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via email at kmckrell1@pghboe.net. I hope that your journey in Theatre Arts is an enjoyable and rewarding one. It will be a challenge that I am excited to see you meet!

Sincerely,

Ms. K. McKrell
(412) 529-2053
Obama Academy 6-12
English/Theatre Arts Teacher
Musical Director

"Theatre is a verb before it is a noun, an act before it is a place."

Approved: 
(Dr. Wayne N. Walters, Asst. Superintendent, Principal)

