



Discovering Our Community Educational Resources:

Drama in the Classroom: Acting Out to Learn

EDUO 9814

One Semester Credit/Unit

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Course Description:

The purpose of this class is to use theater arts as one avenue to enhance the teaching act and increase students' interest in learning. Teachers will further their knowledge of the performing arts by experiencing various kinds of (dramatic, comedic, or musical) play performances. They will conduct both pre and post performance research as well as either attend a rehearsal or interview a director or other production member. These theater arts experiences will then be incorporated into classroom curriculum.

Course Objectives:

1. Teachers will learn about and experience live theater productions.
2. By using performing arts as a motivator, teachers will enhance comprehension and increase student interest in class subject matter.
3. Teachers will provide information about and encourage attendance at appropriate theater experiences for their students.

Grading Rubric: Written Response Rubric:

| Exemplary: Met and Exceeds Expectations A+ to A- | Acceptable: Meets Expectations B+ to B- | Unacceptable: Needs Improvement. Must be resubmitted. |
|--|--|--|
| Reflective, thoughtful ideas relevant to the assignment are clearly stated. | Presents some relevant ideas and connections to the assignment. | Few relevant ideas connected to the assignment, some ideas unclear. |
| Very well organized | Is generally well organized | Shows little organization |
| Reflective piece covers numerous facts and specific details of the learning experience | Some facts and specific details of the learning experience are included. | Few or no facts or specific details of the learning experience are included. |
| Free of Spelling or grammatical errors | Writing contains a few spelling or grammatical errors. | Numerous spelling or grammatical errors. Writing is difficult to read. |

Class Requirements:

EACH PARTICIPANT WILL:

1. Attend three live play performances; at least one at students' level of interest (6-9 hrs) Name
the three plays and their venues.

1a

1b

1c

1d Compare and contrast those that were at your student's interest level with those at adult levels.

2. Conduct research before attending each play. (2-3 hours)

Indicate the source and the findings of your pre theater research for each play.

2a

2b

2c

3. Attend a rehearsal OR interview the director or other production personnel of one play. (2-3 hrs.)

3a Describe your rehearsal or interview experience.

3b Compare and contrast your theater experience that included an interview or rehearsal with that of solely attending a performance.

4. Participants will complete a critique for each play attended. (2-3 hrs) Write a brief
summary of the plot of each play

4a

4b

4c

What did you appreciate and enjoy most about each play and what did you find least appealing, and why?

4d

4e

4f

Select one main actor/actress in each play and critique his/her performance.

Comment on the set, lights, costumes, and make-up in each play.

4g

4h

4i

5. Conduct research for each of play after attending it. (1.5-3 hrs)

Theater should provoke curiosity that leads to further research. Indicate the source and findings of your post performance research for each play.

5a

5b

5c

6. Participants will create a drama lesson plan for the classroom (2-4.5 hrs)

Describe at least one activity/lesson plan for your grade level that reflect your theater experiences and enhance student comprehension and interest in class subject matter. Some suggestions for incorporating acting into the curriculum are:

- Integrating Reader's Theater into the classroom
- Students writing and performing skits based on subjects (such as a historical event or important chapter of a novel.)
- Role playing
- Students filming other students as they act out an historic event, a scientific or math concept, etc.
- Students creating costumes and props to illustrate an important concept.

Note: DVD of a skit or play being performed or Photos are always welcome.

7. Encourage students to experience appropriate live theater (1 hr.)

7a Describe your motivational techniques to encourage student attendance at live theater.

7b How successful have your techniques been?

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Summary and Evaluation

Summarize and evaluate your experiences in completing this course. What suggestions would you give to improve this self-paced class? Would you recommend this class to other teachers? Thank you.