



LCHS Stagecraft

Syllabus

2011/2012

Mr. Pschirrer

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Course Objective: Stagecraft is designed to acquaint you with the basic backstage skills required to plan and produce scenery, lighting, and sound for the theatre. We will concentrate primarily on scenic construction techniques but we will also discuss topics in lighting, sound, and properties. The course is based in hands-on work in the “scene shop” plus in-class discussions and projects based on assigned readings from the texts.

Outside Class Requirements:

Stagecraft does require some time and work outside of class. As a requirement for *each semester* you must:

- See **TWO** outside productions and write a technical critique of the lighting, scenic, and costume elements of the show. If money or transportation is an issue, see Mr. Pschirrer right away to make arrangements. Contacting me the day the project is due is not acceptable.
- You must also put in 5 hours working on an outside event in the LCCHS auditorium. This can include working crew for a LCCHS production, as well as other concerts or events. These hours must be completed before you are eligible to be paid for an event.
- Whenever there is a con, we are all responsible for setup as well as *breaking down the con during lunch*. This is a **REQUIREMENT**, not a request. Failure to show up for a strike will adversely affect your grade.

Shop Safety:

Your personal safety is the highest consideration in Stagecraft class. If misused, the tools we operate in class can cause severe injury, even death. To provide the safest working environment in the shop, the following rules will be *strictly enforced*:

- Wear closed-toe, low-heel shoes. No open-toed shoes or shoes with high heels. Tennis shoes are OK.
- Jewelry must be removed before operating any machinery.
- Long hair must be tied up away from the face.
- Eye protection must be worn when operating any motor-driven tools.
- Medications. You must not use any tools if you are taking medicines that affect your ability to operate the tools safely. (For example, many cold medications cause drowsiness.)
- Do not work in the shop alone.
- Wear clothing you don't mind getting dirty.



-If you come to class dressed inappropriately, you will not be allowed to participate and you will be counted as absent for that class meeting.

-Any purposefully dangerous behavior that threatens the safety of anyone in the shop will result in your being expelled from the class. DO NOT horse around or use the tools for any purposes for which they are not designed.

Attendance:

To earn a good grade in Stagecraft, attend every class and participate in the projects. Attendance points are given on a daily basis. If you are not in class, you will not receive the points for that class regardless of the reason for the absence. These points cannot be made up.

Absences from Stagecraft class are serious. If you miss History or English, what you missed does not have any direct effect on your classmates. In Stagecraft, if you miss the day we talk about the use and safety of a particular power tool or hand tool, what you do not know can be dangerous to others. For that reason, the absence policy is stricter in Stagecraft than it might be for other classes. Of course, there will probably be a time when you must miss class. If you've missed a day when we've discussed "use and safety of..." topics, you won't be allowed to use those tools until you've been trained. It doesn't matter *why* you missed class, the fact is that you do not know the information you need to know to work safely in the shop.

Tardiness:

Roll will be taken at the start of each class. If you arrive late, it is your responsibility to contact me at the end of class and inform me you were present. If you do not, the marked absence will stand and you will receive half credit for the period. No exceptions.

Grades:

You can access your grades online anytime to see where you stand. Grades are based on:

Attendance	Class participation	Test scores
Project grades	Critiques (2)	Outside class hours (5 hrs/sem)



How to do Well in Stagecraft:

- **Attend class and be willing to get involved.** If you attend class but are habitually ill-prepared to participate in the discussions or are lethargic and lazy towards your shop work, it will adversely affect your grade. This class is all about being a team and being a family. If you are missing (even if the absence is excused) our team cannot function properly.
- **Do well on the tests and projects.** If you are having trouble, please talk with me. Theatre is a discipline that holds promptness as a virtue. Don't be late with anything!
- **SHOW OFF.** It's not enough that the light goes on in your brain, you have to demonstrate your knowledge, skills, and ideas. Demand perfection from yourself and

don't settle for less. LC prides itself on our productions and our technical elements. You are now a vital part of this family.

Classroom Decorum:

It is my responsibility to treat you with the respect to which you are entitled as an adult. In return, I expect you to afford me and your classmates the same respect. In order to facilitate a positive learning environment for all students, a minimum level of mutual respect and decorum is necessary:

- Turn **OFF** your cell phones and iPods.
- No food or drinks in the shop/theatre.
- If you must leave during class, notify me *prior to class*

Significant Dates to Know 2011/2012:

Sept 19 - 20	<i>Cinderella</i> Auditions
Oct 21 - 22	INTAF at North Central HS
Dec 1-3 and 8-10	<i>Cinderella</i> Performances
Jan 11	Showcase Performance – 7pm
Jan 14	Mono Duo Festival in Tri Cities
Jan 17-18	<i>Crucible</i> Auditions
Mar 8-10	<i>Crucible</i> Performances – 7pm
April 26-28/May 3-4	<i>Zombie Prom</i> Performances - 7pm
June 4	5 th Avenue Awards
June 6	MT Benefit – 7pm

CRITIQUE DUE DATES: Nov 1, Jan 10, Mar 27, May 22

beginning.