Introduction to Plays, Playwrights, and Theatre History

Content Area: **Music**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Marking Period 4**
Length: **40**
Status: **Published**

Enduring Understandings

- Playwrights are the most remembered artists in theatre and their work endures beyond that of most historical actors and designers.
- Playwrights are also a form of primary source for a particular time period and comedies, in particular, can offer insight into the cares of their contemporaries.
- Interpretations of theatre work are influenced by personal choice and experience.

Essential Questions

- Who are the playwrights and what are the plays that have influenced theater throughout the ages, and how have they affected history and culture?
- What was the beginning of theater history?
- Why is Shakespeare so renowned and how does his work translate to today?

Summary/Introduction

ELD standards:https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wdmsiGOdCHlrjU-WPvAtENnEgi0EStZXo0uiFYv1Nu4/edit

The focus of this unit is to introduce students to plays, playwrights, and other forms of theatre throughout history.

Revised: August 2024

1.4.12prof.Cr1a	Research to construct ideas about the visual composition of devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12prof.Cr1b	Explore the impact of technology on design choices in devised or scripted theatre work.
9.2.12.CAP.5	Assess and modify a personal plan to support current interests and post-secondary plans.
1.4.12prof.Cr1c	Use script analysis to generate ideas about a character that is believable and authentic.
9.2.12.CAP.6	Identify transferable skills in career choices and design alternative career plans based on those skills.
1.4.12prof.Cr2a	Explore the function of history and culture in the development and subsequent

	interpretations of devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12prof.Cr2b	Examine the collaborative nature of the actor, director, playwright, and designers, and explore their interdependent roles.
1.4.12prof.Cr3a	Use script analysis to inform choices impacting the believability and authenticity of a character.
1.4.12prof.Cr3b	Practice devised or scripted theatre work using theatrical staging conventions.
1.4.12prof.Pr4a	Rehearse various acting exercises to expand skills in a rehearsal for devised or scripted theatre performance.
1.4.12prof.Pr4b	Use technical elements to increase the impact of design for a theatre production.
1.4.12prof.Pr5a	Identify and explore different pacing options per character to better communicate the story in a theatre work.
1.4.12prof.Pr5b	Explore and discover character choices using given circumstances in devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12prof.Re7a	Utilize personal reactions and reflections to artistic choices in a theatrical work for a formal theatre critique.
1.4.12prof.Re7b	Collaboratively analyze how artistic choices in a theatrical work affect personal and peer reactions.
1.4.12prof.Re8a	Examine a devised or scripted theatre work and identify the supporting evidence/criteria for its effectiveness to communicate the central message considering the play's history, culture, and political context.
1.4.12prof.Re8b	Evaluate the aesthetics of the production elements in a devised or scripted theatre work and their ability to support or extend the storyline.
1.4.12prof.Re8c	Formulate a deeper understanding and appreciation of a devised or scripted theatre work by considering its specific purpose or intended audience.
1.4.12prof.Re9a	Analyze and compare artistic choices developed from personal experiences in multiple devised or scripted theatre works.
1.4.12prof.Re9b	Identify and compare cultural perspectives and contexts that may influence the evaluation of a devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12prof.Re9c	Justify personal aesthetics, preferences and beliefs through participation in and observation of devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12prof.Cn10a	Investigate how cultural perspectives, community ideas, and personal beliefs impact a devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12prof.Cn11a	Integrate knowledge of cultural, global and historic belief systems into creative choices in a devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12prof.Cn11b	Use basic research methods to better understand the social and cultural background of devised or scripted theatre work.

Objectives

Students will know:

- The basis of Western theater through the Ancient Greeks.
- The criteria and norms of both Ancient Greek and Shakespearean theater.
- How these time periods influence today.

Students will be skilled at:

- Recognizing the unities of time, place, and action in Greek and modern theater.
- Recognizing the ways Shakespeare broke from these unities in Elizabethan England.
- Creating concepts for modern adaptations of historical plays.

Learning Plan

- Study historical context for the Golden Age of Greece and Elizabethan England
- Study theatrical norms of Ancient Greece including
    - Unity of time, place, and action
    - Genre
    - Technical elements such as the mechane
- Study theatrical norms of Elizabethan England including
    - Iambic pentameter
    - Supernatural elements
    - Genre
- Apply the theater of these time periods to contemporary audiences

Assessments

- Students will participate in multiple Socratic seminars on these topics throughout the course, being assessed on both content and behavior.
- Students will work in small groups to create modern concepts for these historical plays.
- Students will discuss key differences between these two time periods.

Materials

- Scripts: Oedipus Rex; Antigone; Romeo & Juliet; Macbeth; Hamlet; A Midsummer Night's Dream; Much Ado about Nothing; Twelfth Night

Suggested Strategies for Modifications

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1A-PxTb-

SqSbhdiTWm8sCR69UJhJ2Oq_ixoy_hgPpInc/edit?gid=1426178898#gid=1426178898