



## Course Syllabus

**Course Title:** Theater I AB

**School Year:** 2024-2025

**Semester(s):** 1

**Grade Level(s):** Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

**Course Day(s) and Times:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:00-2:00 pm PT

### Teacher Information:

- **Name:** Megan Monroe
- **Email:** [megan.monroe@brancheslearning.org](mailto:megan.monroe@brancheslearning.org)
- **Office Hours:** By appointment only
- **Branches Learning Main Office Number:** (323) 955-0114

**Class Materials** - <https://brancheslearning.org/product/theater-i/#Materials>

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**Course Description:** This online course offers an immersive introduction to theater, covering its rich history, theories, and global traditions. Students will delve into basic acting techniques while enhancing their creative and expressive abilities. Through focused practice, they'll refine vocal and physical expression, character analysis, improvisation, and set design skills. The course aims to foster artistic expression, appreciation for theater, cultural engagement, and potential future involvement in the theater community. Culminating projects allow learners to apply their newfound knowledge and insights to create their own theatrical experiences.

### Course Units

#### Unit 1: Introduction to Dramatic Arts

Students will explore relaxation and warm-up techniques used to prepare the mind and body for performing. Students will learn how to apply their senses as a strategy to take in information and recall their experiences while performing. Navigating the stage as a performer and vocal techniques will also be covered.

#### Unit 2: Historical Context

Students will engage with and understand theatrical vocabulary. They will analyze significant historical movements across different periods of theater, exploring their social and cultural contexts. Students will learn to apply the defining characteristics of various



theater genres and historical periods to their performance techniques, gaining insights into how different styles influence acting, staging, and storytelling.

### **Unit 3: Plays from Concept to Reality**

Students will develop a comprehensive understanding and practical application of fundamental playwriting elements. They will analyze dramatic works to prepare for directing plays, exploring themes, character development, and narrative structure. Casting and rehearsing strategies, including blocking techniques, will be examined to enhance their understanding of how to bring scripts to life on stage effectively. By applying their knowledge of playwriting elements, students will creatively develop scenarios for original plays, honing their skills in crafting compelling stories and engaging theatrical experiences.

### **Unit 4: World Theater and Critical Analysis**

Students will understand and apply theatrical vocabulary to analyze and critique plays. Students will examine plays from non-Western theater alongside Western works, noting the parallels and differences across cultures. Students will analyze performances and their aesthetic qualities.

### **Unit 5: History of Musical Theater in America**

Students will study the history of the development of musical theater in the United States by studying productions and songs. Students will recognize different styles and musical genres. Students will learn about different cultures and experiences expressed through the works.

### **Unit 6: Technical Theater and Design**

Students will examine the design and function of technical theater elements. Students will understand and apply technical vocabulary, and examine careers in technical theater. Students will design and create two technical theater elements.

### **Unit 7: Short Film Project**

Students will understand the components necessary to create a film. Students will learn vocabulary related to filming and editing. Students will examine how music can influence film and theatrical works. Students will create their own short film that includes a musical composition.



**Course Expectations:** Students are expected to have their materials ready prior to the start of class, arrive on time, and be prepared to participate during each meeting. Students are expected to attend from a quiet place with their cameras on. Students are expected to ask for help when needed, and submit their work in a timely manner. Students are expected to act respectfully toward their peers and educators.

### **Grading Scale**

#### **High School, Grades 9-12**

- A = 90% -100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 0%-59%

Final grades are determined by the quality and completion of assignments, attendance, and participation.

### **Important Branches Learning Policy Information**

#### **Camera Policy**

Branches Learning requires students to keep their cameras on during live classes unless otherwise instructed by the teacher. Exceptions can be made in rare circumstances if the course teacher, supervising teacher (HST), and the parent all approve a camera waiver.

#### **Headset Policy**

Students attending live classes from a shared space must have a headset with a microphone to ensure the class is not disrupted by background noise.

#### **Attendance Policy**

Absences must be reported to the course instructor via email or sent to [info@brancheslearning.org](mailto:info@brancheslearning.org). Class recordings are available upon requests.

Attendance and participation are part of the final grade. Students who miss more than 40% of live classes may fail the course. Exceptions may be made if a pre-approved plan is in place.

#### **Late Work**

Assignments turned in after the due date will result in a lower grade unless pre-approved by the instructor.