

ST.MARY'S UNIVERSITY



**MISSION STATEMENT**

St. Mary's University, as a Catholic Marianist University, fosters the formation of people in faith and educates leaders for the common good through community, integrated liberal arts and professional education, and academic excellence.

**DM 3142 — DRAMA PEDOGOGICAL  
PRACTICES FOR ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL TEACHERS**  
**(syllabus extract)**

**Fall 2022**

**Drama Department, Treadaway Hall, 3rd Floor**

**Mon/Wed, 3:15-4:30 pm**

**300 Treadaway Hall**

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Chair, Department of Drama  
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Office Hours: M- TH 1:30 -3 pm  
and ZOOM by appointment  
ZOOM ID: 4700780297

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**Course Description**

This course, using the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Fine Arts framework, provides ideas for using drama games and activities as a pedagogical component for teaching any subject in grades K-5. Using drama in the classroom can maximize learning, deliver key content in an easily understood format, and help embrace increasingly diverse classrooms through inclusive teaching practices. Participatory drama exercises ensure a supportive learning environment for all students, one in which they can learn and explore new ideas both individually and as members of groups.

The use of drama and theatrical activities in the classroom is a proven way to engage students in any subject. A movement in education that began in the 1960s, there are many reasons for engaging children with theatre in the classroom – from 1961: entertainment, psychological growth, educational exposure, aesthetic appreciation, and development of future theatre audiences; to today: inspirational, challenges perceptions/attitudes/behaviors, improves self-esteem/motivation/achievement, delivers key messages easily understood, and maximizes learning.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Learn and understand elements of drama and conventions of theatre
2. Explore theory and practice of using drama activities in the classroom
3. Understand and evaluate the pedagogical value of drama activities for the student
4. Incorporate drama activities into an elementary classroom lesson plan using the TEKS Fine Arts K-5 framework for Theatre §117.101, .104, .107, .110, .113, .116, .119

## Course Materials

Required readings posted to CANVAS. Recommended readings:

- *Improvisation for the Theatre*; Spolin, Viola; Northwestern Univ Press; 1999; ISBN: 978-0810140080
- *Theatre Game File*; Spolin, Viola; Northwestern Univ Press; 1989; ISBN: 978-0810140073

## Course Requirements

Class Participation	10%
Resource Portfolio	15%
Lesson Plans	25%
Journal Entries	25%
Final Exam	25%

Class Participation (10%)

Attentive and contributory involvement with class discussion, both answering and posing questions.

Resource Portfolio (15%)

This document, **due the second to last class**, is a collection of all course materials — class handouts, journal entries, lesson plans, your five (5) theatre in education article URLs + paragraph summary for each, and the TEKS Fine Arts framework K-5 documents from Canvas. Feel free to decorate your portfolio!

Lesson Plans (25%)

Everyone will create, develop, and present two lesson plans to the class during the first nine classes (a third lesson plan will serve as your final exam on the tenth and last class meeting day). You must give copies of your lesson plan to all classmates. See Canvas for the lesson plan template you will use in this course. **All lesson plans for all students in class, including yours, will be included in your Resource Portfolio.**

Journal Entries (25%)

A running commentary on the course material in which you'll pose questions, doubts, connections, and articulating opposing viewpoints for each class meeting. Additional journal topics will be posted to Canvas and mentioned in class. Each entry should be a minimum of 250 words (equivalent of one typed page) and is due the following class.

Final Exam (25%)

Presentation of your final lesson, ideally before a group of elementary school students.

**Course Calendar**

Tentative schedule, subject to change. Updates will be announced in class and posted to Canvas.

DATE	ACTIVITY AND ASSIGNMENTS
<b>Wednesday, Oct 26</b>	The Non-Traditional Classroom
<b>Monday, Oct 31</b>	The Value of Creativity
<b>Wednesday, Nov 2</b>	Storytelling
<b>Monday, Nov 7</b>	Lesson Plan One presentations Movement, Perception, and Expression, part one
<b>Wednesday, Nov 9</b>	Movement, Perception, and Expression, part two
<b>Monday, Nov 14</b>	Elements of Drama, part one
<b>Wednesday, Nov 16</b>	Lesson Plan Two presentations Elements of Drama, part two
<b>Monday, Nov 21</b>	Conventions of Theatre <b>Resource Portfolio Due in class</b>
<b>Monday, Nov 28</b>	Course wrap-up
<b>Dec 2 - 7</b>	<b>Final Exam – Day, Time, and Location TBD</b>