

THEATER 3001-007
MUSICAL THEATER

Fall 2004
MW 2:00-3:50

Instructors: James Vesce & Donell Stines
Rowe 170

Office Hours: James (Robinson 378): MW 11:00-12:00 and by appointment
Donell's (Robinson 383): By appointment only

Course Description

Musical Theater is a studio class which explores in theory and practice the performance of musical theater. The class will combine workshop exercises, readings and viewings of musicals, and the public performance of selected scenes from musicals at the end of the semester. The focus for the class this semester will be the performance of new and unusual musical works.

Textbooks

There are no textbooks for this course. Instead, each student will be required to contribute \$20 toward a sheet music/musical score/soundtrack fund. Also, you will be required to wear black character shoes when necessary in class.

Requirements and Grading Procedure

The following activities constitute the work for the semester:

1. Class Participation - 25% - full and consistent oral and written participation in exercises, discussions, and activities, and completion of any and all reading assignments.
2. Musical Analysis – 25%

You will research and present a complete breakdown and analysis of the development and structure of a new musical.

3. Scenework – 50%

This requirement has two parts:

25% - The first consists of scenework presented in class. Each of you will present at least once. Much of this scenework will be related to the end of the semester project, and involves acting, song, and dance.

25% - The second is a class grade for the evening of musical scenes.

Department of Dance and Theatre Studio Class and Performance Protocol

The following are uniform guidelines for participation in studio and seminar performance classes. In a studio class or seminar most of the work is “in-class” and “hands-on.” Attendance and full participation are therefore essential. Preparation and focus should guide your work as well; your demeanor in class should reflect this at all times. It is important for everyone to work cooperatively and collaboratively, and to create an environment of openness and trust.

Attendance

Two absences are permitted. After two absences, the instructor reserves the right to lower your grade one full letter for each additional absence. Only under special circumstances will a student be allowed to miss additional classes, and then only with advanced notice and appropriate documentation, subject to the rules and regulations of the University and the discretion of the instructor. Exceptions may include but are not limited to the following: religious holidays, medical emergencies, University athletic events, family emergencies, professional opportunities.

Tardiness

Tardiness is defined as arriving late once class has begun. 3 tardy arrivals constitute 1 absence. After the first 15 minutes of class, however, the instructor reserves the right to close or lock the door and/or deny you admission to the class. This will result in 1 absence. If you are tardy by more than 15 minutes and choose to come to class (provided the door is unlocked), it will still result in 1 absence. Students who are more than 5 minutes late for exams will not be admitted.

Coursework

You may not use one of your 2 absences as an excuse for missing a class presentation. If you are absent from class on a day of a presentation or written assignment, the assignment, when presented or turned in, will be graded without prejudice and then lowered by one full letter grade. In the case of performance presentations - you are not guaranteed the chance to present your assignment late (if going back causes a schedule problem). If an assignment is one week late it will not be accepted.

All scheduled monologues, scenes, and class presentations must fulfill the requirements set forth by the instructor in class (e.g., one must read required material, be prepared for discussion, be off-book, etc.). Failure to perform the scene as required will result in a lower grade for that portion of the assignment.

You are expected to spend a considerable amount of time outside of class in rehearsal. Failure to honor rehearsal schedules and time commitments is unprofessional and is likewise unacceptable, and will result in a lower grade for the assignment.

Other specific requirements in the syllabus may apply to each course as necessary.

Course Materials

It is expected that you will use the textbooks and materials recommended for this course. Otherwise, you run the risk of inconsistency among translations and adaptations, dissimilar pagination, and all of the other inconveniences to classmates that follow from different versions of the same play or text. You might also jeopardize your preparation for exams.

Use of Facilities

Food and drink are expressly forbidden in the studio classroom and theater. Only bottled water is acceptable.

All furniture, set pieces, and props should be returned to their proper places at the end of class.

Dress and Behavior

Appropriate dress should be worn at all times. Do not wear short skirts, platform shoes, flip-flops, or any cumbersome clothing. Be prepared for floorwork at all times.

Guests

Visitors to class are allowed with permission of the instructor only.

Department of Dance and Theatre Mission and Purpose Statement

Majors and minors in the Department are encouraged to explore the theoretical foundations and aesthetics of both dance and theatre through a required series of cross-disciplinary courses as well as discipline-specific courses. While receiving a foundation in dance and theatre, all students in both our lecture and studio courses gain knowledge and skills that allow them to achieve career goals, commit to life-long learning, and enrich their quality of life. In addition, all students may gain practical experience through performance and technical assignments in the Department's production season.

Faculty members are committed to the teaching and practice of dance and theatre, as they foster academic progress and artistic expression in an environment that respects cultural and artistic diversity (note that "cultural diversity" refers to issues of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, and disability). In addition, they contribute to the University, the community, and their professions through scholarly and creative endeavors and through service activities.

To conclude: in all its endeavors the Department strives to emphasize 1., interdisciplinary interaction between dance and theatre, and 2., interactions that promote cultural diversity.

Code of Academic Integrity

Students have the responsibility to know and observe the requirements of the UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity (see 1999-2001 University Catalog, p. 375). This code forbids cheating, fabrication, falsification of information, multiple submission of academic work, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty. Any special requirements or permissions regarding academic integrity in this course will be stated by the instructor and are binding on the students. Academic evaluations in this course include a judgment that the student's work is free of academic dishonesty of any type, so grades in this course therefore should be and will be adversely affected by academic dishonesty. Students who violate the code can be expelled from UNC Charlotte. The normal penalty for a first offense is zero credit on the work involving dishonesty and further substantial reduction of the course grade. In almost all cases the course grade is reduced to "F." Copies of the code are available in the Dean of Students' Office or in the Catalog as cited above. Standards of academic integrity will be enforced in this course. Students are expected to report cases of academic dishonesty to the course instructor.

Disability Services

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Services, Fretwell 230, 704/687-4355, as early as possible in the term. It is your responsibility to make your special needs known so that we may be of assistance.

Musical Theater Rehearsal Schedule

October	Monday, 25	<i>Urinetown</i> Dance <i>Harlem Song & Fame</i> Review
	Wednesday, 27	<i>Urinetown</i> Dance <i>Harlem Song and Fame</i> Review
November	Monday, 1	<i>Superman</i> Scene & Song Dance Review
	Wednesday, 3	2:00 – <i>Stars and the Moon</i> 2:30 – <i>Roadside</i> 3:15 – <i>So Many People</i>
	Monday, 8	2:00 - <i>Urinetown</i> Song 3:00 – Dance Review
	Wednesday, 10	2:00 – Dance Review & <i>For Good</i> 2:30 - <i>I Believe My Own Eyes</i> 3:15 - <i>What You Own</i>
	Monday, 15	<i>Assassins</i> Scene & Song
	Wednesday, 17	<i>Assassins</i> Scene & Song Dance Review
	Monday, 22	Review All Scenes and Songs; TBA's
	Monday, 29	Review
December	Wednesday, 1	Review
	Monday, 6	Class TBA Evening TBA
	Tuesday, 7	Evening TBA
	Wednesday, 8	Class TBA 7 PM Tech
	Thursday, 9	7 PM Tech
	Friday, 10	7 PM Performance