

Musical Theatre Performance Styles

Instructor: Maurice Chinnery

3 credit hours

Day: M/W/F

Time: 4:10pm-5:30pm

Room: FAB 115

Semester: Spring

Contact Info

Office: Fine Arts Building Room 308E

Office Hours: By Appointment

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Theatre Department Office: 706-542-2836

Course description

To truthfully tap into the telling of a Shakespeare tragedy you must do the necessary actor homework and preparation right? Same thing is true even for a musical comedy. Every role you play deserves this kind of attention. Every actor is more than capable of finding extreme specificity and nuance in a character. At the end of the day, it all comes down to the text. This course will teach you the importance of analyzing text, and how to incorporate it into your process. We will also be looking at the basics of creating a character from the ground up. From vocal quality to embodying the character using your instrument and insight. The ins and outs of the musical theatre industry will be touched upon throughout. The "serious" actor and "musical theatre" performer can exist in the same body, and we'll discover how to integrate them here.

Course Objective

By the end of this class, students should be more than capable to ...

1. Incorporate acting techniques/analysis with vocal performance in meaningful ways
2. Use their full bodies when interpreting a song
3. Review a musical from a critical standpoint
4. Perform four(4) songs strictly using the text, given circumstances, and personal life experience.

Texts

A Practical Handbook for the Actor by Melissa Bruder

Acting in Musical Theatre, A Comprehensive Course edited by Joe Deer and Rocco Dal Vera,

Foreword by Lynn Ahrens

Rent music, lyrics, and book by Jonathan Larson

Oklahoma book and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein, composed by Richard Rogers

You do not need to purchase any of these. You will find the librettos of the musicals on eLC

Materials

1. Neutral clothing comfortable for movement and lying on the floor
2. Notebook and pen/pencil
3. Binder (for sheet music)
4. Recording Device (phone works)
5. WATER

Sheet Music Resources

[Scribd](#)

[Musicnotes](#)

[Sheet Music Plus](#)

Attendance Requirements

1. There are no excused absences. You have THREE ABSENCES to do with what you will. After THREE absences, your grade drops a letter grade for each absence. Punctuality is key! For every three times that you are late you will receive one absence. If a student misses a class, the student is to contact the instructor or fellow classmate to obtain any handouts or missed notes. You get ONE free pass on in-class presentation or rehearsal. I want to be sympathetic to any challenges or tribulations you may be facing. All I ask is that you be transparent with me in helping us both figure out a way to move forward. Any missed day when you are to present or rehearse a scene after the free pass will receive a 50% deduction in the final grade of the scene.
2. Absence is permitted for religious holiday with advance notice.

Space Rules & Maintenance

1. Rehearsal space is available on a sign-out basis from the Department website. You will be removed from a room if you have not signed out the space. Please do not ever rehearse in the halls or stairwells of the building; this disturbs other classes and staff in offices. If you cannot secure a room in the building, you are free to rehearse outdoors or in your homes/dorm rooms. Please do not remove any of the black boxes from any classroom. To reserve a room you must log in to the department website with your UGA ID. Click the link below, go to the **Facilities** tab, and click **Room Reservation**. From there log in and proceed.

[Department of Theatre & Film Studies](#)

2. Absolutely no food or drinks will be permitted in the space at any time. Bottled water is the only liquid permitted in all the building classrooms. Lunch and snacks must remain outside the space. No texting, cell phones or laptops allowed during

class ever. Do not remove rehearsal blocks/furniture from this classroom. We will keep the space neat, clean, organized, and free of clutter, as this will reflect upon the work we conduct.

Academic Requirements

1. Make up work is allowed only under extraordinary circumstances and through the student's initiative.
2. Wear clothing suitable for movement and floor work. You will not be allowed to participate and receive an absence if not dressed suitably for work.
3. Assignments are due on the date listed.
4. Plays written for the theatre sometimes contain strong language that might be considered offensive to some: profanities, violence, sexual terms, or references to religious deities. Please see me privately as soon as possible if this is a problem for you.
5. The nature of Acting and this course requires that physical contact occur from time to time with fellow students. On occasion, I may have to adjust parts of your body for proper alignment and to release tension. Please see me privately as soon as possible if this presents a problem.
6. If you have a disability or physical injury that hinders you from participating in class activities, please see me privately so we can plan to accommodate you.
7. All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. The Department of Theatre & Film Studies insists that all work assigned to an individual project be done entirely by the individual to which the assignment is given. Joint projects must be accomplished entirely by the group to whom the project is assigned. If in the judgment of the course teacher, the student violates the above policy, he or she will be reported immediately to the Student Judiciary. The outcome of such action may result in the reported student's failing the course and/or being disciplined in other ways. See website: ovpi.uga.edu/academic_honesty.
8. All written work assigned for outside class must be typed. Exceptions will not be permitted and work not typed will not be accepted by the instructor.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources:

- If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and

Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.

- UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) or crisis support (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>).
- If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center.
- Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

Class Participation

Will be based on your attendance, attitude in class, oral participation, punctuality, preparation, commitment to class exercises, positive contributions, and your ability to work with the ensemble.

Grading Criteria

- A-Excellent. Always well prepared; extensive outside preparation. Actively pursues improvement and highly self-motivated. Student makes significant growth in skills and knowledge during semester. Active, positive contributor to class. Punctual, always present.
- B-Good to Excellent. Always prepared, notable outside preparation. Pursues improvement and self-motivated. Notable growth in skills and knowledge during semester. Positive contributor to class. Punctual, always present.
- C---Acceptable to Good. Generally prepared; acceptable outside preparation. Interested in improvement and often self-motivated. Shows some growth in skills and knowledge during semester. Often contributes to class. Punctual, always present.
- D---(Failing for Majors) Unacceptable to Acceptable. Often not prepared; shows little outside preparation. Shows little interest in improvement and is rarely self-motivated. Very little skill and knowledge growth during semester. Seldom contributes to class and has negative attitude. Sometimes late, some absences.

- F---Largely Unacceptable. Rarely prepared and lacks adequate outside preparation. Virtually no interest in self-improvement and not motivated. Virtually no growth in skills and knowledge. Does not contribute to class, negative attitude. Not punctual; several absences.

Grading Breakdown

Birthday Assignment	10 points
Standard's Score	15 points
Golden Age Score	20 points
Post Golden Age Score	20 points
Contemporary Score	20 points
90 Sec Review	15 points
	100 points in Total

Land & Labor Acknowledgement

Our activities at the University of Georgia take place on land that European colonizers stole from Indigenous peoples through violence. [Eleven](#) different Native American tribes lived on what is now considered Georgia. The Athens area included the Mvskoke Creek (Muscogee and Creek), and possibly Cherokee. Enslaved people (primarily Indigenous and of African descent) likely provided exploited labor on the land where the University of Georgia was built. The contributions and history of these peoples--including musical culture--has not been a part of the collective consciousness in our UGA community. As we begin and/or continue to understand the history of education and our own roles in these systems and institutions, it is important for each of us to recognize the histories of and on this land as integral to becoming thoughtful and inclusive artistic citizens.