

Music Department Syllabus

Musical Theatre Score Study

MU/TH 303

3 credit hours

New

I. Catalogue Description

Study of musical theatre literature through analysis, guided listening, and performance. Selections from early development to the present will be included. The course will cover the major epochs of Music Theatre (e.g. operetta, Golden Age, vaudeville, rock opera, etc.) and will also include study of instrumentation, the relationship between libretto and music, vocal techniques, and voice classification.

II. Prerequisites:

- A. MM103 Basic Harmony and Form
- B. MM106 Aural Skills II
- C. MU152 Functional Piano II
- D. Or by permission of instructor

III. Objectives:

- A. To develop an understanding of the broad range of literature and styles in this genre from the perspective of director and performer
- B. Develop an understanding of voice classification in Musical Theatre

IV. Expectations of Students

- A. Completion of all written and listening assignments
- B. Develop an audition/performance portfolio of pieces specific to unique voice classifications
- C. Performance of selected literature in class

V. Content

Score reading

Chord symbols, Notation analysis, Listening to vs. reading music,
Written expression of the aural experience

2 weeks

Voice Typing

"Fach" System, Selecting the correct literature for your voice/physical type

1 week

Picking a Musical

Criteria for selecting a show for your needs
Voice types, difficulty, and personnel, orchestration, costs, choreography, scenery,
costumes,

1 week

Study of Literature by major epoch

(listed are *some* of the composers and styles to be studied in each section)

Early developments, foreign influences	1 week
John Gay, Singspiel, Opera Buffa, Offenbach, Vaudeville	
Operetta	2 weeks
Gilbert & Sullivan, Johann Strauss, Victor Herbert, Sigmund Romberg	
Golden Age	3 weeks
Irving Berlin, Rogers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Lowe, Cole Porter, Frank Loesser, Leonard Bernstein	
Post War Development of Musical Theatre	3 weeks
Kander & Ebb, Jules Styne, Stephen Sondheim, Burton Lane, Lionel Bart, Lucy Simon	
Pop/Rock Musical Theatre	2 weeks
Andrew Lloyd Webber, Stephen Schwartz, Frank Wildhorn, Claude-Michel Schoenberg, Marvin Hamlisch	
Evaluation/projects	1 week

VI. **Textbook**

The Broadway Song Companion: An Annotated Guide to Musical Theatre Literature by Voice Type and Song Style. David Devenney, Scarecrow Press, 1998.

Students may also be required to purchase music appropriate to their voice type.

Other sources:

American Musical theatre: A Chronicle. Gerald Bordman. Oxford University Press, 1995.

Broadway Musicals Show by Show, 5th ed. Stanley Green. Hal Leonard, 1996.

The Cambridge Companion to the Musical, William A Everett and Paul R. Laird, eds. Cambridge University Press, 2002
The Musical: A Concise History. Kurt Gänzl. Northeastern University Press, 1997.

The World of Musical Comedy, 4th ed.. Stanley Green. Da Capo Press, 1984.

VII. **Grading**

Exams (written and listening) 30%

Classroom presentations (reports and performances) 40%

Portfolio 30%

To include resume, solo repertory list, music, complete roles list, and other materials required for auditions.