

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:

MU 1032 MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE SKILLS

0/4/3

(Previously Sp. Tp. MU 123X Musical Theater Performance Skills)

(Updated April 2009)

PREREQUISITES: None

CATALOG

DESCRIPTION: Introduction to vocal/singing skills, movement/dance styles and acting/characterization principles which are integrated and developed for Musical Theater performance.
Does not satisfy the humanities requirement.

RATIONALE: This course addresses applied study in the performance medium of Musical Theater and develops skills and performance techniques of this dynamic form of stage art. The student also experiences how song, dance and dramatic interpretation merge and evolve to create the structure of Musical Theater.

OBJECTIVES: As a result of taking this course the student should

1. Understand the physiology of singing, restore and maintain vocal health.
2. Develop vocal technique (breath management, proper tone placement, pitch and dynamics range).
3. Develop musicianship (ear training, music notation reading, rhythm/harmony awareness)
4. Define the elements of movement (space, time, dynamics)
5. Be able to sing one complete piece of music in a solo or group
6. Acquire physical, kinetic awareness and realize his / her potential of movement.
7. Be able to execute a variety of movement / dance forms and styles.
8. Portray a given role after character exploration
9. Strive for and execute a satisfactory level of performance in the final examination project, which will be presented to a small audience within the student environment.
10. Discover and develop the fundamentals of performance (relaxation, fitness, flexibility, control, concentration, awareness, imagination and spontaneity).

LEARNING

ACTIVITIES:

- .Individual and group vocal and movement techniques training which are applied in the realization of Music Theater skills.
- .Structured exercises and improvisation sessions that are directly linked to the material to be performed in the final project
- .Lectures, viewing of videos, and DVD's, listening to CD recordings, assigned readings and research of specific works, scene study and script /lyric reading.
- .Scene study
- .Rehearsals for the final presentation

STUDENT**EVALUATION:**

15% Mid-term written examination
15% Mid-term practical examination
30% In class work and participation
40% Final examination in performance form

**REQUIRED
MATERIAL**

.Craig, David. On Singing Onstage. Applause Theater Books, latest edition ISBN: 1557830436.
.Reserved reading: Maslon, Laurence. Broadway: The American Musical. Bulfinch Press, latest edition ISBN : 0821229052.
.Reserved DVD (3 part): Kantor, Michael. Documentary Film: "Broadway : The American Musical".
.Other sources include CD's, DVD's, librettos, vocal scores and sheet music of selected musicals.

WWW RESOURCES:

www.allmusicals.com
www.broadwaymusicalhome.com
www.americanmusicals.com
www.top20theater.com
www.musical101.com
www.talkingbroadway.com
www.emusicals.com
www.insituteamericanmusical.com
www.broadway.com

SOFTWARE**REQUIREMENTS:**

Word, Blackboard (Digital Drop Box), Library Databases, Internet

**COMMUNICATION
REQUIREMENTS:**

All written and oral communication in English.
All singing and acting applications in English.

COURSE OUTLINE:*I. Vocal Techniques*

1. Proper singing habits (correct posture, proper care of the voice)
2. Breathing exercises
3. Vocal warming up
4. Voice placement
5. Development of vocal tone (strength range, intonation)
6. Musicianship (pitch, intervals, rhythm, reading music)

II. Stage Movement – Dance

1. Body warm-up, strengthening, stretching and posture alignment
2. Elements of movement, space, time and dynamics
3. Movement explorations and improvisations
4. Staging terminology and methods
5. Vocabulary and execution of positions and steps
6. Styles and forms of dance used in musical theater repertory

III. Drama

1. Analysis - Interpretation of story line and characters
2. Exploration and establishment of character and application of dramatization/acting principles
3. Portraying the character within the lyric/song and staging/choreography

IV. Examining the fundamentals of performance

1. Relaxation
2. Fitness
3. Flexibility
4. Control
5. Concentration
6. Awareness
7. Imagination
8. Spontaneity

V. Preparation of performance

1. Distribution of material (casting)
2. Study and memorization of script and music
3. Vocal and Musical coaching, scene and character direction
4. Blocking and stage movement
5. Choreographic sequences

VI. Rehearsal Process

1. Individual and group rehearsal sessions which aim for a performance level quality.
2. Scene transitions and musical bridging.
3. "Run through"
4. Rehearsals without production elements.

VII. Production

1. Lighting and Sound
2. Scenery and Props
3. Costumes and Makeup
4. Final Technical Rehearsal
5. Dress Rehearsal
6. Performance

Extra Notes: - Performance material will be selected according to the abilities and potential of the individual student.

- Students will participate in solo or group performances
- Assignments will be from landmark works