

**DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:**

**MU 1033 INTRODUCTION TO MUSICAL THEATRE:  
AN AMERICAN ART FORM**

**3/0/3**

(Updated Fall 2009)

**PREREQUISITES:** NONE

**CATALOG**

**DESCRIPTION:**

A survey and analysis of the history and development of musical theater focusing on the most significant American musicals, their creators and performing artists.

**RATIONALE:**

This course will provide the student with a solid background and appreciation of the genre of musical theater. The elements of theater, music and dance merge to create this exciting and popular performing art.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:
1. Define and interpret the genre of musical theater, its structure and characteristics.
  2. State the historical development of the American musical theater, which includes an examination of its European roots, and differentiate between the characteristics of each successive era.
  3. Recognize and identify the major works of musical theater, its writers, composers, lyricists, as well as describe the artistic characteristics of its most well-known performers.
  4. Examine how the spoken word, music, lyrics and dance work together to achieve the final production.

**LEARNING**

**ACTIVITIES:**

Lectures, class discussions, reading of scripts, listening to CD's of original cast recordings, viewing and notating DVD's of selected musicals, reading critics' reviews.

**EVALUATION:**

The final grade will be determined by:

- |                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| 1. Midterm             | 25%  |
| 2. DVD/CD reports      | 20%  |
| 3. Final examination   | 40%  |
| 4. Class participation | 15 % |

**REQUIRED**

**MATERIAL:**

Flinn, Denny M. The Musical: A Grand Tour: Schirmer Books. Latest edition. ISBN: 002864610  
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".

**RECOMMENDED** Other sources include CD's, DVD's, librettos.

**MATERIAL:**  
**WWW RESOURCES:**

[www.allmusicals.com](http://www.allmusicals.com)  
[www.broadwaymusicalhome.com](http://www.broadwaymusicalhome.com)  
[www.ilovenytheater.com](http://www.ilovenytheater.com)  
[www.Broadway.com](http://www.Broadway.com)  
[www.artsclub.com](http://www.artsclub.com)  
[www.tcg.org](http://www.tcg.org).

**SOFTWARE**  
**REQUIREMENTS:**

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

**COMMUNICATION**  
**REQUIREMENTS:**

Use of English in class discussion and in all written work and examinations.

**CONTENT OUTLINE:**

1. History and Development
  - 1.1. Origins of musical theater
  - 1.2. From ancient theater to the eighteenth century
2. Genres
  - 2.1. Operettas
  - 2.2. Comique operas
  - 2.3. Indigenous American forms, including minstrel, vaudeville, burlesque, revues
  - 2.4. Early American musical comedy
  - 2.5. Musical theater – Musical drama
3. Definition and Analysis of Musical Theater
  - 3.1. The script/libretto – writer, director
  - 3.2. The score – composer, lyricist
  - 3.3. The staging and choreography – choreographer, director
4. The Performers
5. The Production Structure of the Musical
6. Landmarks in the History of the American Musical
7. Contemporary Influences (new technology, trends, etc.)