

History of Musical Theatre in America

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THE 3243 3 credit hours Fall 2024
 Tue/Thu 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm
 GC 289

Course Overview

A study of historical sources tracking the development of Musical Theatre; the conventions, key people, and cultural forces that shaped this most American of art forms.

Learning Objectives

- Recognize musical theatre's key points of origin and evolution, as means to build an empathetic understanding of the past on its own terms.
- Experience the music, lyrics, plays, and stories of historically significant musical theatre composers and writers.
- Examine the collaborative production process and contributions from industry-leading musical theatre creatives.
- Connect important works to context: time, culture, events, and the biographies of the makers of these works.
- Develop critical and analytic skills in reading, viewing, and listening to research sources.
- Pursue independent research culminating in written work or presentation that supports an argument or hypothesis regarding musical theatre's present or future.

Attendance

- Please be ready to begin class on time, not just walking in the door at start time.
- Two tardies are equivalent to one unexcused absence. You are considered tardy if you enter class 1 - 15 minutes after class has begun. You are considered absent if you enter class 16+ minutes after the start time.
- You are allowed **two unexcused absences** for the semester without penalty. Examples of the suitable use of an unexcused absence include: illness, mental health day, transportation issue, work conflict, personal or family issue, etc. After you have taken two absences, each additional absence will result in a 1 point deduction from your Attendance/Participation Grade. Note that perfect attendance does not guarantee full credit for your Participation Grade (see grading). An attendance/participation grade of 70% will result in your being requested to drop the class or take an incomplete.
- **Excused absences** are outlined as follows:
 - Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled **university extracurricular activity** may have an opportunity to make up missed assignments or class work. It is the sole responsibility of the student to initiate and agree upon arrangements for make-up work with the instructor via Canvas message, **prior to** any missed classes, scheduled exams, or assignment due dates.
 - Students who participate in a **religious observance** may have an opportunity to make up missed assignments or class work. It is the sole responsibility of the student to initiate and agree upon arrangements for make-up work with the instructor via Canvas message, **prior to** any missed classes, scheduled exams, or assignment due dates.
 - Students who experience legitimate, verifiable cases of **major illness and/or emergency** may have an opportunity to make up missed assignments or class work. Absences in this case are excused at the instructor's discretion and will require a doctor's note, official report, etc. for excusal. It is the sole responsibility of the student to initiate and agree upon arrangements with the instructor via Canvas message, to make up for any missed classes, scheduled exams, or assignment due dates, within a reasonable time period.

Required Materials

- **Musical Theatre: A History** ISBN: 978-1474267007. By John Kenrick. Methuen Drama. 2017.
- **musicals101.com** A companion website to your textbook, created and maintained by John Kenrick.
- **Canvas.** You must have reliable access to Canvas and internet for additional reading and assignments. All written assignments must be submitted to Canvas. Laptops are welcome in class.
- You must acquire or will receive **research materials** such as a scripts, recordings, video, research articles, play reviews, etc. The parameters for acquiring additional materials will either be posted to Canvas or discussed/distributed in class.

Assignments

Attendance/Participation

The participation grade includes your readiness to learn and participate as well as your efforts to share, respond to, and discuss topics in class.

Reading Responses

You will write brief responses to the assigned readings throughout the semester.

Research Groups

In small groups, you will complete short research assignments throughout the semester.

Final Project

You will write a paper and give a live presentation on an assigned topic.

Grading

Participation	30%	
Reading Responses x15	25%	
Research Groups x 10	25%	TOTAL = 100%
Final Project	20%	

*Attendance Grade is factored into the final grade after the above points have been calculated.

Final grade is then calculated per the FIU grading scheme:

100-95: A 94-90: A- 89-87: B+ 86-83: B 82-80: B- 79-77: C+ 76-70: C 69-60: D 59-0: F

Late Work Policy

The policy is simple: NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED.

All written assignments must be submitted via Canvas. Last minute technical difficulties with Canvas are NOT acceptable cause to request that an assignment be accepted late. If you are having trouble submitting to Canvas, there are multiples support options at <https://canvas.fiu.edu/support/>

There are specific instances where you may request an assignment extension: 1) approved DRC accommodations; 2) an excused absence (see syllabus attendance policy); or 3) emergency/extraordinary circumstances (see syllabus attendance policy). The student must have arranged an extension with the instructor, requested via email or Canvas message, and it may or may not be granted at the instructor's discretion.

Course Outline

Details for all assignments, format requirements, additional grading parameters, and due dates & times will be either posted to Canvas or discussed/distributed in class. ****Schedule and content is subject to change.****

Weeks 1 - 3	Ancient Times - Golden Age of Opera - pre-1920's.
Weeks 3 - 4	The Jazz Age.
Weeks 5 - 7	The Golden Age.
Week 8	Post-Golden Age.
Weeks 9 - 11	Pre-Contemporary.
Weeks 12 - 13	Contemporary - Current.
Weeks 14 - 15	Final Projects.

- There will be **discussion** every class.
- Many classes will include viewing, listening, or reading **activities**. No advance preparation is required.
- **Reading Responses** to assigned reading will be due on Canvas during Weeks 2 - 13.
- **Research Groups** will present in-class during Weeks 3 - 13.
- **Final Projects** will be given work time in-class during Weeks 13 - 14 and will present on Week 15.
- Attendance requirements during **Finals Week** is TBA.

Additional Information

- Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and to honestly demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Student Conduct and Honor Code procedures and sanctions as outlined in the FIU Regulation 2501 and the Student Handbook.
- The Disability Resource Center (DRC) collaborates with university faculty to provide inclusive learning environments. If you have a disability and plan to utilize academic accommodations, additional information may be found in the DRC's website: drc.fiu.edu.
- To reference the University Regulations on Sexual Misconduct, FIU Regulation 105 Sexual Misconduct (Title IX): <http://regulations.fiu.edu/regulation>
- If you are looking for help for yourself or a fellow classmate, Panthers Care encourages you to express any concerns you may come across as it relates to any personal behavior concerns or worries you, for the classmate's well-being or yours; you are encouraged to share your concerns with FIU's Panthers Care website: <http://PanthersCare.fiu.edu/>.
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers free and confidential help for anxiety, depression, stress, and other concerns that life brings. Learn more about CAPS at caps.fiu.edu Professional counselors are available for same-day appointments. Don't wait to call 305-348-2277 to set up a time to talk or visit the online self-help portal.
- Student work submitted to the College/School/Department in satisfaction of course or degree requirements becomes the physical property of the College/School/Department. This work may include papers, drawings, models, and other materials. However, students retain all rights to the intellectual property of such work created as part of an academic course, and may request that, upon completion of the academic course, the College/School/Department return any such work to the student holding the intellectual property rights therein. If a student declines to accept physical possession of its student work, the College/School/Department may, at its discretion, retain, return, or discard such materials. The College/School/Department will not normally discard the materials of currently enrolled students. If the College/School/Department wishes to use the student's work, it will request that the student voluntarily consent in writing to the use. If consent is given, the College/School/Department will include the student's name when using the student's work.