

MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP I

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office Hours: by appointment, Tue 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm & Wed 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

THE 3243 3 credit hours Fall 2025

Mon/Wed/Fri 1:00 pm - 2:50 pm

VH 100

COURSE OVERVIEW

A survey of upper division musical theatre training with a focus on theatrical comedy, musical scene work, and ensemble work, as well as foundational sight singing and aural skills. For BFA Musical Theatre majors, this is the first of a 3-course sequence of upper division musical theatre training.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Demonstrate an understanding of the conventions and techniques of theatrical comedy performance.
- Acquire foundational process for sight singing and aural skills, expanding upon previous theory training.
- Explore the musical theatre actor's collaborative relationship to ensemble.
- Articulate critical response to performance of self and others in a constructive and professional way.
- Develop process for the specific and efficient rehearsal of musical theatre material.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- **Acting Comedy** ISBN: 978-1138891418 (Olsen, Christopher. *Acting Comedy*. Routledge, 2015.)
- reliable access to Canvas for announcements, to submit written assignments, etc.
- sheet music, libretti, audio/video recordings as assigned; additional reading materials will be provided on Canvas or in class
- analog note-taking materials
- clothing and shoes that allow for movement

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 **one unexcused absence** for the semester without penalty. each additional absence will result in a 1 point deduction from your Participation Grade. Note that perfect attendance does not guarantee full credit for your Attendance/ Participation Grade (see grading). An attendance grade below 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 **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.

ASSIGNMENTS

Complete details for all assignments, format requirements, additional grading parameters, and due dates/times will either be posted to Canvas or discussed/distributed in class.

Participation

Each class, you are expected to demonstrate a readiness to learn and to participate in activities. The participation grade also includes your efforts to share, respond to, and discuss topics in class. This includes you completing the assigned readings in preparation for discussion.

Comedy Ensemble

You will study theatrical comedy! You will devise, rehearse, and present a group project that demonstrates the concepts and techniques of theatrical comedy, integrated with music.

Theory Exams

You will take exams on music theory topics including aural skills, sight singing, and dictation.

Repertoire Submission

You will curate musical scenes to work on over the semester and will submit all sheet music and libretti in week 5.

Song Passes

You will rehearse rep in multiple passes, implementing coaching, direction, and feedback into your process. Rehearsal outside of class is required.

Performance Project: Forum

You will rehearse and perform a forum highlighting work from the semester for an invited audience.

GRADING

Participation	10%	
Comedy Ensemble	20%	
Theory Exams	20%	
Repertoire Submission	10%	TOTAL = 100%
Scene Work Passes	30%	
Forum	10%	

*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 attendance policy); or 3) emergency/extraordinary circumstances (see attendance policy). The student must have arranged an extension with the instructor, requested via Canvas message, and it may or may not be granted at the instructor's discretion.

COURSE OUTLINE

Complete details for all assignments, format requirements, additional grading parameters, and due dates & times will be either posted to Canvas or discussed/distributed in class. ****Course outline is always subject to change.****

	theory	comedy	scene work	forum
week 1	assessment.		fundamentals.	
week 2		ch 1, 2. discussion.		
week 3	exam 1.	ch 5, 6. discussion. commedia. improv.		
week 4		ch 4, 10. discussion. improv.		
week 5		ch 3, 7. discussion. text. ensemble rehearsal.	repertoire submission.	
week 6	exam 2.	ch 8, 9. structure. ensemble rehearsal + music.		
week 7		ensemble first pass.	scenes 1 & 2 first pass.	
week 8			scenes 1 & 2 second pass.	
week 9	exam 3.		scenes 1 & 2 third pass.	
week 10		ensemble second pass.	scenes 1 & 2 final pass. scenes 3 & 4 first pass.	
week 11			scenes 3 & 4 second pass.	
week 12	exam 4.		scenes 3 & 4 third pass.	forum rehearsal.
week 13		ensemble third pass.	scenes 3 & 4 final pass.	forum rehearsal.
week 14				forum rehearsal.
week 15	exam 5.			forum rehearsal.
week 16				forum.

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.