

UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA
MASS COMMUNICATIONS/THEATRE DEPARTMENT
XIDS 2100 Arts & Ideas - American Musical Theatre (3 Credit Hours)
MWF 10:00-10:50
FALL SEMESTER, 2007 Bonner Lecture Hall A

Instructor: Mr. Tommy Cox 678-839-4702 e-mail: tcox@westga.edu
Office Rm 202C Martha Munro Building
Office Hours: Daily 1:00-3:30 *Also by individual appointment*

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an overview of the interdependent and interdevelopmental character of movements in the arts and historical/philosophical ideas. A fine or performing art is always represented as one of the disciplines considered in every section. This course satisfies core area C1. This section (American Musical Theatre) traces the evolution of the American Musical 1893 to the present. Emphasis is on the multi-disciplinary nature of musical theatre and its reaction to events in American history. Two written examinations and three WebCT Vista projects are required.

Extra credit may be given on occasion, but no work done for other classes may be used for credit in this class!

TEXT/COURSE MATERIALS:

The following text is recommended for this course. It is a supplement to the lectures and video series.

Kantor, Michael and Laurence Maslon, *Broadway: The American Musical*, Bullfinch Press, New York, 2004. isbn# 0-8212-2905-2

Class notes based upon lecture, videos and the occasional handout.

COURSE DEGREE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student who successfully completes this course will demonstrate:

- A. An understanding of the history & evolution of the American Musical.
- B. The ability to differentiate between various types of musical theatre.
- C. Knowledge of the component parts of musical theatre.
- D. A clearer understanding of careers in musical theatre.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) Two written examinations (drawn from the text, videos & class notes) will be given.
- 2) The student must complete two online projects. These projects will be administered on WebCT.
- 3) Final project to follow criteria set out below.

EVALUATION

Midterm Exam	50 points
Final Exam	50 points
Online Projects	25 points each
Final Project	50 points
Total Points	300

Based upon the total amount of points possible, the grading scale is as follows:

A = 300-270
B = 269-240
C = 239-200
D = 199-170
F = 169 and below

COURSE POLICIES:

Students are strongly encouraged to attend each class session. Vital information is given at each meeting. Students are not to enter the class during a visual presentation of any kind. If you must be late, please wait until the performance is completed to enter the classroom.

COURSE OUTLINE:

The Turn of The Century

8/15 Introduction and Chapter One: pp 1-64

8/17 The evolution of American Musical Theatre (Minstrelsy, Vaudeville and George M. Cohen)

Who's Who for the turn of the century: The Virginia Minstrels, The Christy Minstrels, Thomas Rice, George Cohen, Victor Herbert

Suggested Movie to see: *The Great Ziegfeld*

The Follies Era

8/20 View documentary on Vaudeville

8/22-24 **Chapter One: Give My Regards to Broadway (1893-1927)**

8/24 **WebCT Vista Assignment one is Due Today!**

Who's Who For the Follies Era: Fanny Brice, Will Rogers, W.C. Fields, Eddie Cantor, Florenz

Ziegfeld, Sandow, Tin Pan Alley, Bert Williams, Jerome Kern, Oscar Hammerstien II, Al Jolson
Suggested Movie Rentals: *Yankee Doodle Dandy* and *The Jazz Singer (with Al Jolson)*

Show Boat

8/27-8/31 View and Discuss *Show Boat*

The 1920s

9/3 Labor Day Break

9/5-7 **Chapter Two: Syncopated City (1919-1933)**

Who's Who For the 1920s: Fred and Adele Astaire, The Marx Brothers, Ed Wynn, George Gershwin, Ira Gershwin, Walter Winchell, Richard Rogers, Lorenz Hart, George White, Marilyn Miller, Sissle and Blake, DeSylva Brown and Henderson, Paul Robeson, Irving Berlin.

Suggested Movie Rentals for this weekend are: *Show Boat*, , *The Broadway Melody* and *The Ziegfeld Follies*

The 1930s

9/10-12 **Chapter Three: I Got Plenty O' Nuttin' (1930-1942)**

Who's Who for the 1930s: Cole Porter, *Of Thee I Sing*, Yip Harburg, Ethel Merman, *Porgy and Bess*, Ethel Waters, *The Cradle Will Rock*, Marc Blitzstein, The Federal Theatre Project, *Pal Joey*, *This is the Army*

The Cradle Will Rock and the WPA

9/14 and 17-19 View and discuss *Cradle Will Rock*

9/21 Review for Midterm Exam

The Golden Age- and MIDTERM

9/24 **Midterm Exam**

9/26-10/1 **Oh, What A Beautiful Mornin' (1943-1960)**

10/3 View Rogers and Hammerstien documentary

Who's Who for The Golden Age: Rogers and Hammerstein, Alfred Drake, Agnes DeMille, *On The Town*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Kiss Me Kate*, Gwen Verdon, Frank Loesser, *My Fair Lady*, Lerner and Loewe, Bob Fosse, David Merrick, Steven Sondheim, *West Side Story*, Leonard Bernstein, Harold Prince, Julie Andrews.

Suggested Movie Rentals are: *West Side Story*, *The Sound of Music*, *Carousel*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *On The Town* and *My Fair Lady*.

Oklahoma!

10/5-12 View and discuss *Oklahoma!*

The '60s and '70s

10/15-19 **Chapter Four: Tradition (1957-1979)**

Who's Who of the '60s and '70s: *Gypsy, Golden Boy, Fiddler on the Roof*, Jerome Robbins, The Ed Sullivan Show, Barbara Streisand, *Hello Dolly, Cabaret, Chicago*, Joel Grey, Angela Lansbury, *Mame*, Chita Rivera, Zero Mostel, *Hair, Jesus Christ Superstar, 1776, Company*, Michael Bennett, Joseph Papp, *A Chorus Line, The Wiz*, Charlie Smalls, *Annie, Sweeney Todd*, Gower Champion.

Suggested Movie Rentals for this weekend are: *1776, Hair, Mame, Annie*

How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying

10/22-26 View and discuss *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*
10/26 **WebCT Vista Project Two is Due Today**

The British Invasion/The 90's and Today

10/29-11/2 **Putting It Together (1980-2005)**
11/5 Revivals

Who's Who of the British Invasion: Trevor Nunn, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Cameron Macintosh, Tim Rice, *Cats, Les Miserables, The Phantom of the Opera, La Cage Aux Folles, Miss Saigon, Evita, Sunday in the Park With George*

11/7 Broadway and Cultural Diversity/ Rent
11/9-19 View and Discuss segments from: *Rent/The Producers/Dreamgirls*

Who's Who for The '90s and Today: Jonathan Larson, Bernadette Peters, Mandy Patinkin, Nathan Lane, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Audra McDonald, Gregory Hines, *Rent, The Producers, Wicked, Hairspray*, Lea Solonga, Savion Glover, Disney on Broadway, Mel Brooks

11/21-23 Thanksgiving Break

11/26 Trends in musicals today: Hot issues...

11/30 Rehearse Final Projects in Class as needed

12/3-5 Present Final Projects and review for Final Examination

12/7 Final Examination 8:00 am