Instructor: Jenni McCarthy, M.F.A.
Office: Old Auditorium, Rm. 201
Office Hours: M/W 3:30-5:00pm, T/TH 12:00-3:30pm
Email: jmccarth@westga.edu (Put “XIDS 2100-06” as subject line)

Course Description (3 Credits):
This course is an overview of the interdependent and interdevelopmental character of movements in the arts and historical/philosophical ideas. This course explores the development of the American Musical.

Core Area C Learning Outcomes:
• Students will demonstrate knowledge of the foundational concepts of artistic, intellectual, or literary achievement, adapting written communication to specific purposes and audiences.
• Students will recognize and make informed judgements about the fine, literary, or performing arts from various cultures.

Course Learning Outcomes:
• Students will gain an appreciation for and an enhanced enjoyment of live performance.
• Students will be able to effectively evaluate and communicate about drama and live theatre.
• Students will gain a basic understanding of musical theatre development and movements.
• Students will develop the critical and analytical skills needed to understand the components of a musical.
• Students will understand how theatre simultaneously reflects and shapes our society.

Required Reading:
"Broadway: The American Musical" by Laurence Maslon and Michael Kantor.
ISBN-10: 1423491033

*Additional Readings/Videos will be posted to CourseDen throughout the semester.
Student Responsibilities:

- Attendance and participation in all class sessions is mandatory. In order to make up material missed in class, students will need to have an excused absence.
  - For a medical absence, you must bring a signed note from the doctor.
  - Students are allowed four EXCUSED absences throughout the semester. Each subsequent absence will result in a 3% decrease in your final grade.
- All assigned work must be turned in at the beginning of the class the day it is due or in the designated Dropbox on CourseDen. No late work or email submissions will be accepted.
- You are responsible for all work that you may have missed. Check the syllabus regularly to make sure you are up-to-date on all assignments.
- Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing. If a student is caught being academically dishonest, they will fail the assignment. If the student repeats the behavior, they are subject to immediate failure of the course. Please see the Honor Code at the end of this syllabus for more information.
- Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. If, in the opinion of the responsible faculty member, a student becomes disruptive in class, faculty may exercise their judgment on how best to address the situation, be it by requiring the student to leave, calling Campus Police, or taking other steps deemed necessary for the safety and well-being of the class. Such action may affect the student’s final grade and standing in the University.
- If you are struggling with the course material, utilize my office hours early and often. They are there to help you succeed.

Course Itinerary:
Syllabus is subject to revision by the instructor at any point during the semester.

Written Reflections:
Writing prompts based on material covered in class will be posted weekly to our CourseDen page. The assignments will be announced in class on Wednesday, and will be active for submissions until 9:30am on the following Monday.

In-Class Quizzes:
Quizzes will be given at random throughout the semester. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class and will be timed. Each quiz will be worth 10 points, with up to 5 bonus points available. Arrangements to make up missed quizzes from an excused absence must be made with the instructor within the week that the quiz was given.

Participation:
Students will be graded on preparedness for class and contribution to class discussion. Students will be given a midterm and a final participation grade in order to track their progress.
**Musical Production Project:**
Students will give a presentation on a Musical from American Musical Theatre history selected on the second day of class. Students will explain the cultural significance of the production, key players in the production, and contributions to the development of American Musical Theatre. Presentations will be staggered throughout the semester based on chronology. Students will turn in a copy of their Powerpoint slides and a Works Cited page on the day of their presentation.

**Spotlight Research Paper:**
Students will choose a contributor to the American Musical Theatre movement and conduct further research on their significance to the development of the Musical Theatre art form. This research paper should include a brief biography of the individual, their major contributions to the Musical Theatre art form, and their impact on the development of Musical Theatre. Papers should be 5-7 pages in MLA format, and must include a Works Cited page at the end of the paper. Rubric will be discussed in class.

**Exams:**
Three exams will be given throughout the semester. The first exam will cover Ch. 1-2, the second exam will cover Ch. 3-4, and the Final Exam will cover Ch. 5-6. The Final Exam is NOT cumulative.

**Extra Credit:**
There will be up to five extra credit points available on every in-class quiz. A student may go and see a Musical Theatre production at any theatre and write about their experience for additional extra credit. The reflection paper should be 1.5-2 pages and must be turned in with the program/Playbill the student received at the production.

**NO OTHER EXTRA CREDIT WILL BE OFFERED THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER. THESE ARE YOUR ONLY OPPORTUNITIES, SO TAKE ADVANTAGE!**

**Basis for Evaluation:**
- Written Reflections 10%
- Pop Quizzes 5%
- Participation 15%
- Musical Production Project 20%
- Spotlight Research Paper 20%
- Exams 30%
- Total 100%

**Grading Scale:**
100-90, A; 89-80, B; 79-70, C; 69-60, D; 60 and below, F

**“A” Work- Outstanding**
Continuously goes above and beyond written requirements of the assignment in order to improve and grow as a young professional. Creativity, willingness in classwork, and an excellent attitude toward the work are visible in every class. True mastery of the material
“B” Work- Above Average
Achieves all aspects of the assignment and demonstrates some extra effort in terms of growth. Some creativity, willingness in classwork, and an admirable attitude toward the work are visible in most classes. Still has room for improvement or growth.

“C” Work- Average
Assignments are completed exactly as assigned. Little evidence of growth or creativity in the work.

“D” Work- Below Average
Below average completion of aspects of the assignment. Failure to follow instructions, inability to incorporate adjustments and constructive criticism, and little to no evidence of growth or creativity.

“F” Work- Unacceptable
Unacceptable work; does not follow the direction of the assignment. Resistance to adjustments and constructive criticism and a hostile attitude toward the work are deemed unacceptable by the instructor.
Weekly Schedule
Syllabus is subject to revision by the instructor at any point in the semester.

Week One
Mon. Jan. 8th - CLASS CANCELLED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

Wed. Jan. 10th - Introduction; Syllabus Review For next class: Read pgs. 3-31, Written Reflection #1 on CourseDen.
*Open Drop ends at 11:59pm Jan. 10th

Week Two
Mon. Jan. 15th - NO CLASS; MLK Day Holiday

Wed. Jan. 17th - CLASS CANCELLED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER For next class: Read pgs. 32-59, Written Reflection #2, Musical Project Presentations Assigned on CourseDen

Week Three
Mon. Jan. 22nd - Discussion: Irving Berlin and the Theatre District, Ziegfield’s Follies, Vaudeville, Minstrel Shows, Operetta. The Great War, Equity For next class: Read pgs. 65-81

Wed. Jan. 24th - Discussion: Prohibition, Al Jolson, Revues For next class: Read pgs. 82-101, Written Reflection #3

Week Four
Mon. Jan. 29th - Discussion: Shuffle Along, 1920’s Who’s Who For next class: Musical Production Project Presentations Group 1

Wed. Jan. 31st - Musical Project Presentations Group 1 For next class: Read pgs. 102-121, Written Reflection #4

Week Five
Mon. Feb. 5th - Discussion: Rodgers and Hart, Show Boat, The Jazz Singer For next class: Exam Number One

Wed. Feb. 7th - Exam Number One For next class: Read pgs. 129-143

Week Six
Mon. Feb. 12th - Discussion: The Great Depression, Cole Porter, Of Thee I Sing For next class: Read pgs. 144-161

Wed. Feb. 14th - Discussion: Ethel Merman, Porgy and Bess, 1930’s Who’s Who For next class: Read pgs. 162-185, Written Reflection #5

Week Seven
Mon. Feb. 19th - Discussion: Rodgers and Hart, Political Satire, *The Cradle Will Rock*... For next class: Musical Production Presentations Group 2

Wed. Feb. 21st - Musical Production Presentations Group 2 For next class: Read pgs. 191-209, Written Reflection #6

**Week Eight**
Mon. Feb. 26th - Discussion: The Golden Age, *Oklahoma!*, Agnes de Mille For next class: Read pgs. 210-229

Wed. Feb. 28th - Discussion: *On the Town*, Postwar Black Musicals, *Annie Get your Gun, Kiss me Kate* For next class: Read pgs. 230-273, Written Reflection #7

*Last day to withdraw with a grade of W from Full-Session courses.*

**Week Nine**


**Week Ten**
Mon. Mar. 12th - Review for Exam Number Two, Spotlight Research Paper Topics Approved

Wed. Mar. 14th - **Exam Number Two** For next class: Read pgs. 279-311

**Week Eleven**
Mon. Mar. 19th - **NO CLASS; SPRING BREAK**
Wed. Mar. 21st - **NO CLASS; SPRING BREAK**

**Week Twelve**
Mon. Mar. 26th - Discussion: *Gypsy*, Civil Rights Movement, *Fiddler on the Roof*, Julie Andrews and Barbara Streisand For next class: Read pgs. 312-337

Wed. Mar. 28th - Discussion: *Cabaret*, Who’s Who, *Hair, Company* For next class: Read pgs. 338-365, Written Reflection #8

**Week Thirteen**

Wed. Apr. 4th - Musical Production Presentations Group 4 For next class: Read pgs. 373-403, Written Reflection #9

**Week Fourteen**
Mon. Apr. 9th - Discussion: 42nd Street, Revivals, Cats!, La Cage Aux Folles, Pop-operas, Who’s Who For next class: Read pgs. 404-433

Wed. Apr. 11th - Discussion: Rent, Cultural Diversity, Revivals, Disney, The Producers For next class: Read pgs. 434-452, Written Reflection #10

**Week Fifteen**

Mon. Apr. 16th - Wicked, Spamalot, Jukebox Musicals, Jersey Boys For next class: Read pgs. 453-461

Wed. Apr. 18th - Discussion: The Light in the Piazza, Spring Awakening, In the Heights, 21st Century Musicals For next class: Written Reflection #11

**Week Sixteen**

Mon. Apr. 23rd - 2010-Now: Current Broadway Shows and Trends For next class: Musical Production Presentations Group 5

Wed. Apr. 25th - Musical Production Presentations Group 5; Spotlight Research Paper DUE For next class: Study for Final Exam

**Week Seventeen**

Mon. Apr. 30th - Review for Final Exam

**Final Exam**

Wednesday May 2nd 8:00-10:00am