

THT 230.001
Fundamentals of Musical Theatre

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Office Hours

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10:00-11:30	By appointment	10:00-1130	9:30-11:00	By appointment

Course Objective: To establish the development of Musical theatre Performance skills, building on technique developed in voice studies, acting, dance and theory classes. Coursework will include song analysis, an introduction to professional audition process and preparation, discussions about the nature of pursuing a career in the contemporary theatre and opportunities to meet and question current working theatre professionals.

The successful student will complete this course with a foundation of techniques for auditioning for the contemporary musical theatre, a collection of effective material to use for auditions, a working understanding of song and lyric structure, a familiarity with the various styles of music and dramatic writing found in modern musical theatre and a solid set of professional skills to apply to rehearsal and performance.

Through the semester, students will develop an audition "book" that will include various types of songs as well as professional resumes, headshots and other business materials required.

You are required to see all Department of Performing Arts theatre production and submit a three to 5 page paper as a response .

The Final will be a mock audition for a hypothetical production of some specific musical as well as a review and critique of the students "book". For the "audition" portion students must choose and prepare 2 appropriate songs, as well as perform a "cold" reading of script material and sing a "call back" selection from the score if asked. They will present their book for review on the final week of class.

Students are required to have a 2"-3" loose-leaf binder for their "book". All music assigned must be placed in the binder, properly mounted and marked for auditions or other performance opportunities. Music will be assigned throughout the semester and it is each student's responsibility to obtain the materials required.

Each Student must have a personal recording device at each class, to tape musical accompaniment to use for rehearsals of material.

Attendance is mandatory. There is an allotment of two unexcused absences per semester. In the case of emergencies or extended illness, the student must speak to the professor as soon as possible to determine a course of action.

Lateness will not be tolerated. You are expected to be on time and warmed up. Class begins promptly at the appointed time. Each incident of lateness will equal 1/4 absence. No one will be admitted into class after 10 min., which will count as an absence. Anyone who has a schedule problem that might result in frequent lateness, talk to the professor

Listening Log:

Each student must keep a journal of Musical Theatre recordings listened to during the semester. At least one score per week. Entries must include a basic synopsis, character breakdown, a brief response to the material and specific songs and characters that would be appropriate for you. Folder will be in class to deposit log in each week.

TEXT: *On Singing Onstage* by David Craig

Students are responsible for learning all material assigned. Class time will be allotted for recording the accompaniment when new material is assigned, but class time will not be used for learning material. **After a first presentation, all songs are expected to be memorized for performance in class.** Vocal technique work is expected to be prepared outside of class. Although vocal considerations and technique will be frequently addressed, the focus of this course is on using previously acquired technique to present clear and compelling, musical *dramatic* work and effective audition presentations. Good vocal, acting and movement techniques are essential to excel in this course.

GRADING: Final grades will be determined in the following manner:

Attendance is mandatory. Students are allowed 2 absences for the semester. Opportunity to “makeup” or re-schedule missed assignments or presentations will be at the discretion of the instructor. Grades will be lowered for work not presented on time.

Attendance	05%
Songs	30%
Lyric exercise	10%
Mock Audition/Final	15%
Book	10%
Papers	10%
Log	05%
Improvement	10%
Effort/attitude	05%

ATTIRE

Students should most often dress in clothing that is comfortable and allows freedom of movement. For final presentation of songs/scenes, student should suggest, as well as possible, the appropriate clothing for the character. For mock audition, students should dress appropriately for a professional audition.

If you are a student with a disability and wish to request accommodations, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services located in B-40 Van Hoesen Hall or call (607) 753-2066 for an appointment. Information regarding your disability will be treated in a confidential manner. Because many accommodations require early planning, requests for accommodations should be made as early as possible.

THT 230 Fundamentals in Musical Theatre OUTLINE (subject to adjustment or change)

CLASS1: Introduction, type assessment, Professional presentation of “slate” Discussion of modern musical theatre profession

Assignment : Bring “go to” 16 bar audition to next class

Read :Preface and Chapters 1-4 in Craig

CLASS 2: Presentation and critique of “go to” 16 bar audition .

Discuss reading

Assignment: Re present audition with changes based on feed back, List of Lyric types with Examples, List of song forms with examples

CLASS 3: Second presentation of audition material. Discussion of presentations. Discussion of assignments on Lyric and song form.

Assignment :Lyric exercise bring in for presentation next class

CLASS 4: First presentations of lyric exercise for critique.

Assignment: make adjustments to presentation.

CLASS 5: Second presentation of Lyric exercise and critique. Learn music associated with lyric

Assignment: Prepare song with music and lyric in chosen scenarios

CLASS 6 & 7: First Presentations of scenario with song for critique.

Assignment: Make adjustments to presentations based on critique

Read: Chapters 5-8 in Craig

CLASS 7 &8: Final Presentations of scenarios with song.

Assignment: new individual songs. Use lyric for exercise “The One” in Craig

Read: Chapters 11-12 in Craig

CLASS 9: Presentation of “the One” and discussion of the reading and exercises related to it.

Assignment: Complete exercises from Craig on song

Read: Chapters 13-16 in Craig

CLASS 10 &11 : First Presentation of Complete Song and critique

Assignment: Make adjustments based on critique

CLASS 12&13 : Second presentation of song and critique.

Assignment: make adjustments for final presentation of song

CLASS 14: Presentation of song/midterm.

CLASS 15: Guest speakers: Current working Actors (ALUM and Others) Discussion and Q&A.

CLASS 16 : Discussion of types of musical and dramatic styles present in modern musical theatre. Discuss method for choosing appropriate audition material.

Assignment: Prepare instructor assigned 16 bar general audition and a student chosen 16 bar audition cut

CLASS 17: Presentations and critique of audition cuts. Show 1Paper Due

Assignment: Make adjustments based on critiques.

CLASS 18 : Final Presentations of general audition cuts. Discussion of headshots and resumes.

Assignment: Student chosen “Contemporary” Musical Theatre 16 bar audition cut. Create professional theatre resume. Research headshot photography.

CLASS 19: Presentation of “Contemporary” Musical Theatre audition and critique. Resume turned in for comment .Discussion of headshot research and process.

Assignment: Make adjustments based on critique of audition. Prepare “classic” romantic/dramatic musical audition one 16 bar instructor assigned, one student chosen.

CLASS 20: Presentation of “classic romantic/dramatic” audition and critique. Discuss and work cold reading strategies and practice.

Assignment: Make adjustments based on critique of audition. Prepare list of shows /roles appropriate for self and suggestions of roles for classmates.

CLASS 21: Final presentation of “classic romantic/dramatic” musical audition. Share role suggestions and discuss.

Assignment: Prepare classic “musical comedy” 16 bar audition. Student selected.

CLASS 22: Present “musical comedy” audition and critique. Guest Casting Director/Artistic Director discussion and Q&A.

Assignment : Make Adjustments based on critique. Prepare contemporary “rock/Pop” 16 bar audition cut student selected

CLASS 23: Final presentation” Musical Comedy” audition. Presentation and critique “rock/Pop audition

Assignment: Make adjustments based on critique:

CLASS 24 : Final presentation of ‘Rock/Pop audition. Cold Reading Practice; announcement of “show” for Mock Audition final.

Assignment: Prepare 16 bar “Patter” song audition.

CLASS 25: Presentation and critique of Patter song. Discussion of “unified” type auditions. Summer stock theatres, regional theatres, unions , agents, managers,

Assignment: Make adjustments based on critique . Research season/audition information for specific Summer Stock and Regional theatres.

CLASS 26: Final Presentation of Patter song. Discuss theatre season/audition research

Assignment: Prepare audition song that best represents your strengths, 32bar and 16 bar cut

CLASS 27: Presentation and critique of Audition Song.

Assignment: Make Adjustments based on critique.

CLASS 28: Final Presentation of Audition song.

FINAL: AS SCHEDULED “MOCK AUDITION”

