

Fundamentals of Musical Theatre Acting

class: TPP 3251

location: McGuire Pavillion, Studio G15

time: Mon/Wed/Fri, periods 6-7 (12:50 - 2:45)

instructor: Andrew Cao

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office: McCarty C 305

office hours: Mon/Wed 10:25am - 11:15am and by appointment

Course Overview:

In this class, we will establish a strong foundation and understanding of various approaches to acting through song.

Course Objectives:

- create a process for working on musical theatre roles/songs/shows by exploring, integrating, and uniting various fundamental acting techniques.
- help the singing actor find fusion between playing a character and bringing one's authentic self to the role/song/show
- explore the different possibilities of using one's voice/voices that are specific to character
- find strong audition material that highlights the actor's instrument and their individuality
- further prepare students for success in the audition world through demystifying the audition process and learning strategies to best represent themselves in the audition room
- embrace reliability, work ethic, collaboration, and contribution as core elements to a performing artist's success
- expand knowledge of and familiarity with the musical theatre repertoire

Content Warning

It is possible that some of the material we cover in class may be unsettling or difficult for students. You are always welcome to step away for a moment, without penalty, should we cover material or explore something that affects you in this way. Please feel free to communicate concerns or considerations of which you wish us to be aware at any time throughout the semester.

Schedule (subject to change)

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| week 1: | Class Intro, Syllabus, Vocalizing, 1st Song Conversations |
| week 2 - 5: | Song #1 |
| week 5 - 8: | Song #2, *Mid-term evaluation provided |
| week 9: | Spring Break |
| week 10- 12: | Song #3 - Duets |
| week 13: | Final Presentation Prep |
| week 14: | Final Presentation |

***Mid-term Evaluation:** Students will be notified if their “Daily Classroom Participation” grades or attendance record are on track to negatively affect their final grade. Please see the next page for a complete “Daily Classroom Participation” breakdown.

Policies

Cell phones, Tablets, Computers, Etc. may only be used to take notes. Using your devices to check social media, browse the internet, or work on projects from another class is disrespectful to your classmates and detrimental to your learning potential. Students will be given 1 warning. The 2nd and subsequent infractions will result in a 5 point deduction from your Daily Participation Grade (-1 point for each category).

Leaving the Classroom - We will structure in a 5-minute break every class period, about half-way through. Students are expected to remain in the room during classtime as it is disruptive and unprofessional to come and go as you please. Please feel free to talk with me if there are extenuating circumstances.

Video-ing In Class Work: UF strictly prohibits publicly sharing any videos taken during the official classtime, this includes our Final Presentation.

Grading

Semester grade will be based on a

100 point scale

| Letter Grade | | GPA Equivalency |
|-------------------|--------|-----------------|
| A | 100-94 | 4.0 |
| A- | 93-90 | 3.67 |
| B+ | 89-87 | 3.33 |
| B | 86-84 | 3.00 |
| B- | 83-80 | 2.67 |
| C+ | 79-77 | 2.33 |
| C | 76-74 | 2.00 |
| C- | 73-70 | 1.67 |
| D+ | 69-67 | 1.33 |
| D | 66-64 | 1.00 |
| D- | 63-60 | .67 |
| E, I, NG, S-U, WF | 59-0 | 0.00 |

Current UF grading policies can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Attendance: 40 Points

| <u>Absences</u> | Total Deductions from Semester Grade | Best Grade Possible |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Ok! | A |
| 2 | Ok! | A |
| 3 | -5% | A |
| 4 | -12% | B+ |
| 5 | -20% | B- |
| 6 | -25% | C |
| 7 | automatic failure | |

| <u>Late</u> | Total Deduction from Semester Grade | Best Grade Possible |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Ok! | A |
| 2 | Ok! | A |
| 3 | -5% | A |
| 4 | -10% | A- |
| 5 | -15% | B |
| 6 | -20% | B- |
| 7 | -25% | C |
| 8 | automatic failure | |

Injury: If you are nursing an injury, please let me know. You may observe class without penalty.

Attendance will be taken at 1:01pm each day.

Anyone not in the room at that time will be marked late/absent.

Policies regarding attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

Daily Classroom Performance: 40 points

Each of the categories below are worth 8 points

| | |
|---|---|
| <u>Attitude:</u> | Student is positive, optimistic, and supportive of other students ... |
| <u>Motivation:</u> | Student demonstrates focus, a desire to learn, and a willingness to implement the methods we are studying in class... |
| <u>Preparation:</u> | Student is memorized, has invested time in research, analysis, made strong character choices, has spent ample outside-of-class time rehearsing individually or with scene partner to present material as assigned, has uploaded sheet music by the proper date... |
| <u>Discussion and Collaboration:</u> | Student participates in classroom discussions and collaborates with faculty and classmates... |
| <u>Direction & Correction:</u> | Student absorbs, applies, and retains direction to the best of their ability ... |
| | 8 points = Always |
| | 6 points = Most of the time |
| | 4 points = Sometimes |
| | 2 points = rarely |
| | 0 points = never |

Final Presentation: 20 points

This will be a showing during one of our last classes. We'll choose material that we learned throughout the semester and connect it all together through a structured performance. We will spend time in class reviewing and preparing this material before the final presentation date.

Grading for the final presentation will be broken down as follows. Each of the following categories are worth 5 points.

| | |
|---|---|
| <u>Preparation:</u> | Student displays confident familiarity with the material and is ready to perform at a professionally reliable level... |
| <u>Execution</u> | Student performs material accurately and as rehearsed... |
| <u>Attitude, Effort, and Energy:</u> | Student is positive, enthusiastic, supportive of other students, and commits 100% of their energy... |
| <u>Growth & Improvement:</u> | Student displays a level of growth and improvement through implementation of the lessons learned throughout the semester... |
| | 5 points = throughout the entire performance |
| | 4 points = throughout most of the performance |
| | 3 points = throughout some of the performance |
| | 2 points = throughout very little of the performance |
| | 1 points = throughout none of the performance |
| | 0 points = (student did not show up to participate) |

Academic Policies & Resources

please visit this website:

<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>