Advanced Musical Theatre  
Drama 3040-001

Subject to Change

Spring 2024

W/F - 3:00pm-3:50pm

Instructor: Zeke Bocklage, MFA  
(He/Him)

Office Hours: M/W 12pm-2pm 
T/TH 11am-Noon  
Or By Appointment

Contact: bocklage.ezekiel@sfasu.edu  
O: 936-468-1227  
C: 636-667-6680

Location: BLACK BOX THEATRE (Class)  
GFNA 230 (Office)

Department: Theatre

Course Description

This course is a continuation of the study and practice of musical theatre. Students will gain a deeper knowledge of the history of musical theatre with a focus on renowned composers and choreographers while developing a solid understanding of how to be a professional musical theatre actor. The class will culminate into a publicly performed Showcase. The lab portion will be dedicated to rehearsing contrasting pieces for the Showcase. It will include some ensemble pieces and some individual solos.

“If we realize our individual responsibility to an art form, we must not only live up to it as individuals, but remember the collective form of this art, and that more than anything else is one for all and all for one” - Uta Hagen

Course Objectives

Upon successfully completing this course, Students will:

● Learn fundamental techniques, terms and concepts of musical theatre.
● Increase their ability to relate, empathize, express and process emotions with clarity and passion.
● Further advance their groundwork for theatrical collaboration, discourse and problem solving through developing a showcase.
● Continue developing their own process to their craft through both a practical approach, as well as a theoretical and analytical background under industry expectations.
● Learn how to work with different personalities and approaches in a respectful, and productive way.
● Gain a deeper knowledge of the history of musical theatre with a focus on renowned composers and choreographers
Course Content:

Through the use of exercises, both structured and unstructured, the student will explore the basic skills of acting, which include: a repertoire of relaxation and warm-up exercises from which to build upon for use in the study of and preparation for acting, as well as the development of self-awareness, imagination, the mechanics of staging, character-process, foundational work in script analysis and mindfulness of the ensemble.

Students will memorize the general vocabulary of acting through the use of the addendum to the syllabus and in-class exercises and explorations. A comprehensive, written exam will be given at the end of the semester.

Execution of the basic acting skills will be demonstrated by the student in the form of in-class performances of monologues and in scene work with partners. Students are expected to be fully memorized for these performances and will be expected to submit written analysis for each performance, the content of which will vary according to the student’s development of skills.

Expectations of Solo Work

- Thorough written analysis/prep-work
- Clear through-line of thought
- Clarity of objective(s)
- Clarity of tactics
- Vocal exploration
- Physicality and Clear Choreo (Movement)
- Presentations are fully memorized at the time of first performance

Expectations of Ensemble Work

- Professional Collaboration
- Thorough written analysis/prep-work
- Both characters “live” in the same world
- Clear through-line of thought
- Clarity in objective(s)
- Clarity in tactics
- Vocal explorations
- Physicality
- Presentations are fully memorized at the time of Performance
Required Texts

- None, handouts will be made available either in person or through D2L
- Students are expected to provide tracks for their performances by either purchasing, a piano recording or purchasing them from an online source.
- Character dance shoes (if you have questions please ask)
  1. WOMEN
     https://www.amazon.com/Character-Non-Slip-Ballroom-T-Strip-Wedding/dp/B09XKLJQGJ/ref=sr_1_2_sspa?crid=24QFYQQHS5K88&keywords=character+shoes+for+women&qid=1705869011&sprefix=character+%2Caps%2C134&sr=8-2-spons&sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9hdGY&psc=1
  2. MEN
     https://www.amazon.com/Ballroom-Dance-Shoes-Leather-Character/dp/B09MHCG7KH/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?crid=165ESKPJ2ISHA&keywords=character+shoes+for+men&qid=1705869053&sprefix=character+shoes+for+men%2Caps%2C135&sr=8-1-spons&sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9hdGY&psc=

Course Requirements

**Participation and Attendance (50%)** Your presences and involvement are essential to classroom discussion, but also for your own growth as an artist and academic.

- A – Student shows a heightened level of attention, commitment, and effort.
- B – Student shows an acceptable level of attention, commitment, and effort.
- C – Student is present and not disruptive or obviously disengaged,
- D – Student is present and mildly disruptive or disengaged.
- F – Student is present and significantly disruptive or disengaged.
- 0 – Student is not present or asked to leave class.

You are expected to attend every class unless pre-approved by the instructor. 5 or more unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.

**Performance Work (50%)**

Solo Songs (3) (30%) – You will rehearse and perform three new solo songs from Musical Theatre Rep.

Ensemble Work (10%) - You will be working with others in songs and choreo. The expectation is you are always up to date and prepared on the work. This consists of being a strong collaborator and performer that learns how to add to the work without lessening the room.
Choreography (10%) - To learn and improve technique of any choreography assigned to you throughout the semester.

All of this will culminate in your Final Grade with a cabaret on MAY 4TH at 2PM as well as strike during finals week (TBA). **Failure to attend either event will result in an F for the semester.**

### GRADES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation and Attendance 50%</th>
<th>SCALE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100 = A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Performance Work 50%</td>
<td>80-90 = B</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-80 = C</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-70 = D</td>
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<tr>
<td>0-59 = F</td>
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### Attendance Policy

Attendance will be taken at the top of class every period. Being punctual and prepared is an expectation in any field of study, or system of employment. Class attendance and enthusiastic participation is the most important part of your success in this class. Your attendance and punctuality is crucial for building an ensemble, understanding the material, and respecting your fellow actor and the work itself.

“Everybody gets one”. Everyone will get one unexcused, “Whoops I overslept”, “I am not feeling it today” absence. After 2 unexcused absences, the student's final grade will go down by one letter (A to B, for example) 3 or More (B to C), after 4 unexcused absences, the student is advised to drop the course. **Missing a Midterm or Final performance or 5 or more unexcused absences will result in an F for the semester. After 7 Absences, excused or unexcused, the student will receive an F for the semester.**

For Excused absences, the student can ONLY make up 15% of the coursework.

An excused absence is one that has been cleared with the instructor **at least one hour prior to the beginning of class.**

Be on time. Surprises happen, sometimes we run behind, but excessive lateness will not be tolerated. Your classmates rely on you in order to do the work. Don’t do it for me. Do it for them.

### Participation

"Art resides in the quality of doing; process is not magic." — Charles Eames

This is an experience based course, and you are expected to participate and commit with a generous heart, an open mind and a devoted work ethic. You are not graded on 'talent' in this class, you are graded on your Quality of Doing — there is no progress without putting in the work.
Rehearsal

You are expected to rehearse with your fellow actors outside of class, as part of the collaborative nature of theatre. We will discuss your outside rehearsals in class. Both in-class and outside scene work/rehearsal usually requires notes to be taken — please be prepared.

Play Attendance

Observation is critical in furthering your own skills as a practitioner. You are required to attend both Mainstage productions (The Piano Lesson & Once Upon a Mattress). Student tickets are available at the box office 8am -5pm, or their phone number is 936.468.6407. If there are any issues or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out to me.

A Note on Our Work and The Space

The “classroom” is a sacred space where we get to strip away the facades of socialization, explore truth, and play. Respect the space and your fellow artists. Disruptions and/or disrespect of the space will NOT be tolerated.

Your success in this class will be directly proportionate to your willingness to learn and perform ALL of the exercises presented. Not every exercise will work for everyone, but you must try them all. Showing excessive attitude and/or apathy towards exercises (saying stuff like, “This is dumb, I hate this, etc.”) harms you and your classmates’ ability to learn, and it is grounds to receive an “F” for any graded exercise. If you’re going to miss an Assessment Exercise, and you wish to do make-up work, you must notify the instructor by email prior to the date of the missed exercise. In regards to missing work, the instructor reserves the discretion to fail the student outright, and/or adjust the student’s final grade in any way, regardless of the student’s grade percentage earned in the class.

One of the most valuable skills to take away from this class is observing others work and expressing constructive critique. Be kind and generous, and be honest. Some of the greatest ways to improve your own work is to see the greatness in those around you and dissect how they achieved it. This is not an opportunity for bullying. Bullying destroys creative energy and trust. It will NOT be tolerated.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Turn it off. An acting class is a safe place for people to explore and experiment with the art of acting. This cannot happen when people are buried in your phones. It is not only disrespectful to those who are working in the room, but it severely detracts from your growth as well as you lose opportunities to observe and learn from your fellow classmates. If you are expecting an emergency call or text, please communicate with me prior to class beginning. If caught on your phone, you will be warned once. After that, you will be asked to leave class and will be marked absent. Please, just turn it off.
Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways, including instruction on the components of academic honesty and abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are: (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-academic-dishonesty-4.1.pdf.

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the coursework because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats, and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Student Wellness and Well-Being

SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.
On-campus Resources:

The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041
The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:
• Health Services
• Counseling Services
• Student Outreach and Support
• Food Pantry
• Wellness Coaching
• Alcohol and Other Drug Education
www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:
• Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
• National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
• Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
• johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

DAILY PLAN/COURSE OUTLINE ** SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH NOTICE**

***This plan may be altered to meet the needs of the class at the discretion of the instructor.***
Week One (Jan 22) M - Music Skill Diagnostics

   Homework: Begin looking for first solo

   W - Review Diagnostics, Discussion of Cabaret

   F - How is Musical Theatre Different that other Styles

Week 2 (Jan 29) M - Music Theory and Analysis

   W - Class Voicing Sessions

   **FIRST SOLO SUBMISSION DUE**

   F - Begin Working First Full Company Piece musically, Anything Goes

Week 3 (Feb 5) M - Music Analysis/THE GOLDEN AGE

   W - Workshop Solos

   F - Workshop Solos/Review First Ensemble Piece Musically

Week 4 (Feb 12) M - Vocal Technique and Differences from Classical Training

   **BEGIN LOOKING FOR SECOND SOLO PIECE (May be a Duet with approval)**

   W - Perform Solos/Stage and Review Anything Goes

   F - Choreograph ANYTHING GOES

Week 5 (Feb 19) M - Contemporary MT/Sondheim - Growth and Change

   **SECOND SOLO CHOSEN (May be a DUET with approval)**

   W - Choreography for ANYTHING GOES

   F - Work second Solos/Duets/Trios

Week 6 (Feb 26) M - Individual Coaching

   W - CHOREO DAY
F - Perform Second Songs

Week 7 (March 4) M - Individual Coaching
W - Choreography Cleaning and polishing
F - Music for Second ENSEMBLE PIECE “Sunday”

SPRING BREAK MARCH 9-17

Week 8 (Mar 18) M - NO CLASS MEETING/REVIEW FINISHED MATERIAL
BEGIN PICKING FINAL SOLO
W - MIDTERM
F - TBA

Week 9 (Mar 25) M - Rehearsal Techniques
FINAL SOLO CHOSEN AND IS DUE
W - Styles of M.T.
F - TBA

Week 10 (Apr 1) M - Begin working/staging Third Songs
W - Coaching in class
F - NO CLASS EASTER BREAK

Week 11 (Apr 8) M - Perform Third Solo songs
W - Begin Final Ensemble Piece
F - TBA

Week 12 (Apr 15) M - Coaching
W - Coaching
F - Coaching

Week 13 (Apr 22)
M - Program Details/Planning the Cabaret
W - Review all Ensemble work
F - Review all Solo work

Week 14 (Apr 29)
M - Tech
W - Tech
F - Tech

MAY 4th @ 2pm - Cabaret

Call time is 12:30pm or as needed for the production

**MONDAY, MAY 6, 10:30-12:30pm FINAL & JOURNALS DUE**