GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course Outline

THEATRE ARTS 205 – THE AMERICAN MUSICAL ON STAGE AND SCREEN

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units Semester Hours

THTR 205 The American Musical on 3 3 hours lecture: 48-54 hours

Stage and Screen 96-108 outside-of-class hours

144-162 total hours

2. Course Prerequisites

None.

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None.

3. Catalog Description

This course will introduce students to the American Musical, from its inception through its most recent live, filmed, and digital manifestations. A study of the societal movements that influence musical theatre, including demographical, socio-economic and technological trends, will be analyzed and applied. Important individual performers, producers, directors, composers and adapters will be studied. Representative theatrical productions and films will be viewed and critiqued. Observation at selected performances is required.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

a. Appraise the development of musical theatre and the cause/effect relationship that musical theatre has with society.

b. Differentiate the myriad influences that have created and molded musical theatre.

c. Discuss significant individuals and analyze how they have altered the practice and processes of musical theatre.

d. Examine the impact of technology on modern live and recorded musicals and compare the different forms of presentation in musical theatre.

e. Recognize the “Disney-fication” of spectacle driven musicals and how they have affected the modern musical tours, films and local productions.

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard lecture room.

6. Special Materials Required of Student

None.

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7. Course Content

a. The origins of musical theatre.

b. The influence of burlesque and Jjzz.

c. The adaptation of popular music and story into musical theatre.

d. Significant theatrical personages, including the Gershwins, Jerome Kern, Oscar Hammerstein, Astaire and Rodgers, Rodgers and Hart, Fosse, Stephen Sondheim, Gene Kelly, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Jerome Robbins and Andrew Lloyd-Webber.

e. The expected spectacle of modern live musicals and Disney’s influence on spectacle driven live performance, tours and big screen musicals.

8. Method of Instruction

1. Lecture.
2. Discussion.
3. Viewing of pre-recorded materials.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

a. Papers, written assignments: written critiques of a live theatrical performance, musical theatre history/ musical theatre genres.

b. Critique of /compare and contrast of different forms of musical theatre.

c. Single and group projects and presentations: influences of musical theatre, musical theatre personages, musical theatre influences past and present.

d. Written examinations: final exam and quizzes.

10. Outside Class Assignments

a. Research to prepare for written assignments, single and group projects based on musical theatre history.

b. Observation of live musical theatre performances (either on-campus, at a local professional theatre or filmed big screen musicals).

c. Assigned readings from required text and handouts and viewing of materials representative of theatrical productions and films.

d. Preparation of written critiques: viewing performances, research, development of written critique.

e. Preparation for single and group projects: research, development of project, and rehearsal for project presentation.

11. Texts

1. Example of Required Text(s):

Mordden, Ethan. *Anything Goes: A History of American Musical Theatre*. Oxford University Press, 2013.

b. Supplementary texts, workbooks and media:

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the students will:

* 1. Identify and describe different musical theatre genres and presentation styles.

b. Understand and appraise the impact that film, television, and other methods of presentation have altered live musical theatre, and vice versa.

c. Develop an understanding of the influence of different societal trends on the musical theatre.

Date approved by the Governing Board: December 12, 2017