

**THEA 129**  
**MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE LAB**  
Syllabus, Fall Semester, 2017  
NFAC Room 283, Fridays 3:30-5:00pm

Instructor: Mark Hanson and Lisa Golda  
Office: NFAC Rm. 256/301

Office Hours: by appointment  
Office phone: 715-346-3981/3852

**MATERIALS**

- Handouts – Acting Songs (Brunetti) & Acting the Song (Moore/Bergman)
- Notebook
- Two Songs as assigned: American Songbook & Golden Age

**OBJECTIVES (Learning Outcomes)**

- To develop a basic approach to acting a song:
  - Giving the student a method for basic song preparation
  - Aiding in the development of basic body awareness
  - Introducing and using some fundamental acting techniques
  - Providing opportunities for the student to experience a personal and truthful connection to song material
  - Facilitating the development of artistic impulse and instinct
- To workshop and perform theater songs in the context of a laboratory situation.
- To practice and understand basic audition techniques and skills.
- To explore a rudimentary survey of the history of musical theater.

**REQUIREMENTS**

- Participation in required class performances and individual talkback sessions.
- Mastery of three songs from the Musical Theater as assigned.
- Outside preparation: You must spend a minimum of **three hours** per week working on your class material using the techniques outlined in the handouts and class discussions.
- Receptive Attitude and Active Participation in class discussions and exercises.
- Weekly Journal entry as described below.
- Record your showings and comments.

**ATTENDANCE**

- Attendance is **mandatory** for every class.
  - If notification is provided by you at least twenty-four hours before the class time, absence **may** be excused, but you will have missed the information given in the class. You are allowed one (1) unexcused absence.
  - Each additional unexcused absence will lower your grade by **one full degree** (i.e., A to B)

## EXPECTATIONS

- Please arrive punctually for class warmed up both physically and vocally, with your music and recording device and notebook. Be dressed appropriately.
- If you are not adequately prepared, you will not be allowed to workshop/perform your song. This will be reflected in your grade for the day.
- Sheet music should be kept in a three-ring binder, double-sided, with the minimum amount of page turns. **Plastic protective sheets are not acceptable.**

## JOURNAL

- A weekly journal entry will be the required journaling assignment for this semester.
- The weekly journal entry should be a reflection on work you did or work you saw in class and follow it with ideas or plans for moving forward with the work for next showing.
- Focus on the work behind and ahead of you. Don't use this for therapy sessions about what you didn't accomplish and how you feel about it. Focus on the work, not on you, and your ability to take and use criticism will become more effective and reflect on your next showing.
- These journals will be collected at mid-semester and at the last class before the Final.

## GRADING CRITERIA

- Promptness
- Preparation
- Positive attitude and ability to investigate and integrate instruction/notes into your performances
- Creativity and risky choices
- A demonstrated understanding and appropriate characterization of the material
- Class participation – **be** in the room!
- Performance evaluation
- 1 Original Cast Recording reports (handout)
- Short Paper on Golden Age subject to be chosen (handout)

Your final grade will be based on individual class grades plus your overall progress throughout the semester, as accomplished with regular rehearsal and application of the principles introduced in class.

## **BASIS FOR GRADING**

### **A = Excellent**

The student is constantly challenging him/herself in all aspects. Each work session demonstrates growth and experimentation. The results are individual and reveal understanding and discovery. There is present a consistently high level of professionalism.

### **B = Above Average**

Work consistently goes beyond basics. Creativity and imagination are present on a regular basis. Student shows an above-average command of technical skills.

### **C = Average**

The student seems to adequately comprehend the basic sense of the individual lessons and is generally able to apply these ideas to his/her work.

### **D = Fair**

Although some progress is seen, little evidence is observed of a basic understanding of overreaching technical principles.

### **F = Poor**

Essentially no growth is evident. Major difficulties exist in accomplishing the daily work required in regard to individual instruction.

**Disabilities:** Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services during the first two weeks of the semester if they wish to request accommodations for this class.

**Religious Beliefs:** Religious beliefs will be accommodated according to UWS 22.03 as long as the student notifies the instructor within the first three weeks of the beginning of the semester with the days or dates on which he/she wishes to request relief from an examination or academic requirement.

**Emergency Situations:** In the event of a medical emergency, call 911 or use a red emergency phone. Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide emergency responders to victim. In the event of a tornado warning, proceed to the lowest level interior room without window exposure at COFAC 290. Avoid wide-span rooms and buildings. In the event of a fire alarm, evacuate the building in a calm manner. Notify instructor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals.

Active Shooter – Run/Escape, Hide, Fight. If trapped hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out and remain quiet. Follow instructions of emergency responders.

See UW-Stevens Point Emergency Management Plan at [www.uwsp.edu/rmgt](http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt) for details on all emergency response at UW-Stevens Point.”