

Fundamentals of Musical Theatre Acting

class: TPP 3251

location: McGuire Pavillion, Studio G15

time: Mon/Wed/Fri, 12:50 - 2:45

instructor: Andrew Cao (he/him/his)

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office: McCarty C 305

office hours: Mon & Wed, 10:25am - 11:25am (*or by appt*)

Course Overview:

In addition to singing, a professional musical theatre artist must have highly developed acting skills. 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
- study the history of musical theatre, its position and influence in the year 2023, and learn about some of the prominent performers, creatives, and producers within the musical theatre industry

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)

	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Jan 9	Welcome. Introductions. In-class strategy study. 1 st song conversations.	Group song/text analysis. Continued 1 st song conversations	Independent Work Time
Jan 16	MLK Day	Individual song/text analysis.	Independent Work Time
Jan 23	Song #1 Round 1, 3 students, 30 minutes each	Song #1 Round 1, 3 students, 30 minutes each	Independent Work Time
Jan 30	Song #1 Round 1, 3 students, 30 minutes each	Song #1 Round 1, 3 students, 30 minutes each	Independent Work Time
Feb 6	Song #1 Round 2, 6 students, 15 minutes each Begin Song #2 Discussion	Song #1 Round 2, 6 students, 15 minutes each Song #2 DECISIONS by the end of class.	Independent Work Time
Feb 13	Guest Speaker #1	Watch Day: Examples of great Musical Theatre Acting	
Feb 20	Song #2 Round 1, 3 students, 30 minutes each	Song #2 Round 1, 3 students, 30 minutes each	Independent Work Time
Feb 27	Song #2 Round 1, 2 students, 30 minutes each	Song #2 Round 1, 3 students, 30 minutes each	Independent Work Time
Mar 6	Song #2 Round 2, 6 students, 15 minutes each Begin Song #3 DUETS discussions	Song #2 Round 2, 6 students, 15 minutes each Song #3 Duet DECISIONS by the end of class	Independent Work Time
Mar 13	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
Mar 20	Duet In Class Work Time	Song #3 Duets Round 1, 3 duets, 30 minutes each	Independent Work Time
Mar 27	Song #3 Duets Round 1, 3 duets, 30 minutes each	Song #3 Duets Round 2, All Duets	Independent Work Time
Apr 3	Guest Speaker #2	Watch Day: Examples of great Musical Theatre Acting	Independent Work Time
Apr 10	Song #4, Ready to go on your own. 4 students, 20 minutes each	Song #4, Ready to go on your own. 4 students, 20 minutes each	Independent Work Time
Apr 17	Song #4, Ready to go on your own. 4 students, 20 minutes each	Final Presentation Prep	Independent Work Time
Apr 24	Final Presentation Prep	FINAL PRESENTATION!!!	

Mid-Term Check-In: Half-way through the semester, students will be given a summary of their attendance and be notified if their “Daily Classroom Participation” grades are on track to negatively affect their final grade. Please see the next page for a complete “Daily Classroom Participation” breakdown.

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

Absences	Total Deduction from Semester Grade	Late	Total Deduction from Semester Grade
1	Ok!	1	Ok!
2	Ok!	2	Ok!
3	-3	3	Ok!
4	-10	4	-5
5	-20	5	-10
6	-30	6	-15
7	Failure	7	-20

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/

Acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to engage in class include illness; Title IX-related situations; serious accidents or emergencies affecting the student, their roommates, or their family; special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences); military obligation; severe weather conditions that prevent class participation; religious holidays; participation in official university activities (e.g., music performances, athletic competition, debate); and court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena). Other reasons (e.g., a job interview or club activity) may be deemed acceptable if approved by the instructor.

The university recognizes the right of the instructor to make attendance mandatory and require documentation for absences (except for religious holidays), missed work, or inability to fully engage in class. After due warning, an instructor can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences.

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, and/or has spent ample outside-of-class time rehearsing individually or with scene partner to present material as assigned...
<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

Each of the categories below are worth 5 points

Preparation:	Student displays confident familiarity with the material and is ready to perform at a professionally reliable level...
Execution	Student performs material accurately and as rehearsed...
Attitude, Effort, and Energy:	Student is positive, enthusiastic, supportive of other students, and commits 100% of their energy...
Growth & Improvement:	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)

University Policies

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center: <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/> It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Click here to read the Honor Code: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

(continued...)

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Policy on Course Syllabi Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact Uf Helpdesk (helpdesk.ufl.edu) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center (career.ufl.edu): Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support (cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center (teachingcenter.ufl.edu): Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio (writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-%20code-student-conduct-code/>)

On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process (<https://distance.ufl.edu/getting-help/student-complaint-process/>)

Campus Resources

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit counseling.ufl.edu or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the shcc.ufl.edu/

University Police Department: Visit police.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the <https://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu/> or call 352-273-4450.