

**THEA 4011—Acting the Song
SYLLABUS**

Midwestern State University, Texas—Fall 2021

Friday 1:00-1:50pm

Instructor: Morgan Mallory

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Office Hours can be scheduled by the student at <https://morganmsutexas.youcanbook.me>

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Students will study the work of musical theatre as an actor/singer, and use class techniques to develop as a performer through solos, duets, and scenework. Since this is a workshop course, students will prepare material for class presentation and critique. Both live and prerecorded accompaniment will be utilized. There will also be a focus on the audition process and repertoire.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: To provide the student, through participation and experience, with an understanding and appreciation of the arts and theatre. Students will:

- Learn to read and analyze musical texts
- Develop research skills necessary to create a character who may be from a different time, place, culture, and lifestyle than the student
- Create and perform a character in solos and musical scenes
- Develop oral and written critical skills for discussing performance
- Use constructive criticism to further develop an acting role
- Prepare an audition for professional musical theatre work

TEXTS: There are no texts required for this class. You will be expected to read/listen to two musicals, as assigned by the instructor.

Other Materials needed:

- Your own performance material, as assigned by the instructor. You will receive guidance to finding material that speaks to you.
- Chapters/Articles will be distributed throughout the semester
- Notebook, Folder or Binder (there will be lots of handouts and notes)

ATTENDANCE AND LATENESS: This is a performance-based class. Attendance and punctuality are mandatory. The work of this course primarily happens during class time and cannot be made up privately. Tardiness is extremely disruptive and disrespectful to the creative process in an acting class. If you are absent or late, the following penalties apply.

Attendance Penalty Scale

0 absences + 20 points
1 absence 0 points
2 absences – 10 points
3 absences – 20 points
4 absences – 40 points
5 absences – 80 points etc.

Lateness

Late – 5 points
Really late (over 25 minutes) – 10 points
More than ½ of class – whole class

If students are sick/quarantining, they can still receive class credit/attendance points by attending the synchronous class via Zoom. They will be required to be present, dressed, have their camera on during the whole class period, and to do all exercises. Students MUST arrange for online classes 24 hours in advance with their instructor. Classes will NOT be recorded for students to view at any time; the student must be present for the class period as scheduled by the university. The Zoom link for class attendance will be given when requested by the student.

I DO NOT accept late work. If you have an excused absence, the homework must be turned in to my box in the front office the day it is due, NO exceptions. If you are set to perform on a day you are missing due to an excused absence, you must exchange with a peer and it must be preapproved BEFORE the day of performance.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. **PARTICIPATION:** Daily participation in class activities and discussions. Have fun, be engaged and participate fully in order to begin to develop your imagination and gain insight about yourself. Dependable participation in scene, attending out of class rehearsal as needed.

You are **REQUIRED** to audition for any musicals the university presents during the semester. We will talk about this in class, and you will be writing a one-page reflection on your preparation and process.

2. **READING:** Completely read, listen to, and analyze the corresponding play/musical for every performance project assigned. There will be character sheets required for each performance.

3. **PRODUCTIONS:** View 2 MSU Texas productions and write a critique. These will be based on acting critique guidelines provided by the instructor. These must be **TYPED, EDITED** and 2 pages in length in Standard English with an introduction and conclusion. Failure to see a required play will result in a 100 point penalty. Your ticket is free to both of these shows with your valid MSU Texas Student ID.

4. PERFORMANCES:

--Memorize, rehearse, perform, and critique five solos and two scenes from a musical. You must submit your character worksheet on your assigned in class performance day. No late script analysis will be accepted. A list of suggested plays will be provided by the instructor, you may chose a role and scene or one will be assigned. The instructor will provide the script analysis questions.

--Prepare two and present one 16-32 bar cutting(s) of an audition song for a currently auditioning musical. More details on this "final" will be given halfway through the semester and will give the student ample time to prepare for the performance.

--Audition for the musical for MWSU

GRADING: Grading will be out of a total of 1000 points, based on the course requirements

outlined above. You could at any time calculate your grade if you are organized and keep all of your assignments (which is a GREAT idea!)

Breakdown is as follows:

PARTICIPATION	50 points
PRODUCTIONS –2 critiques, 50 pts each	100 points
PERFORMANCE	750 points
-Audition and reflect on the process 100pts	
-Solo and scene performance 50 pts each	
-Monologue and scene script analysis 25 pts each	
-Final “Audition” performance project 125 pts	

EXTRA CREDIT: You can receive extra credit for auditioning outside of MWSU and writing a one page reflection on the experience. Each play/reflection will be worth 25 points (75 possible max, not to exceed your final grade of 1000 points).

Grading Scale

1000-934	A	833-800	B-	699-667	D+
933-900	A-	799-767	C+	666-634	D
899-867	B+	766-734	C	633-600	D-
866-834	B	733-700	C-	Below 600	F

GENERAL NOTES:

Scientific data shows that being fully vaccinated is the most effective way to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 and has the greatest probability of avoiding serious illness if infected in all age groups. Although MSU Texas is not mandating vaccinations in compliance with Governor Abbott’s executive orders, we highly encourage eligible members of our community to get a vaccination. If you have questions or concerns about the vaccine, please contact your primary care physician or health care professional. Given the recent rise in cases, individuals are also strongly encouraged to wear facial coverings when indoors among groups of people, regardless of vaccination status. Although MSU Texas is not currently requiring facial coverings, they have been an effective strategy in slowing the spread.

Some other general rules include:

When you enter for class you must be prepared with all materials, your folder, and a smile, ready to work

NO CELL PHONES or TEXTING. . .phones will be confiscated

NO gum, food or drink (water in the dance studio is okay)

NO sassy attitudes—this is a safe space

Wear comfortable clothing and shoes suitable for movement and floor work. If you are dressed inappropriately, you will not be able to take part in class and it will affect your participation grade.

I would LOVE to help you with any confusion regarding homework before 8am on the day it is due. . .after that. . .

When attending theatre performances and class arrive on time, be attentive, quiet and respectful during performances.

Please note that there may be adult themes discussed, addressed, and explored through both script reading and acting scenes in this class. The instructor will be sensitive to all viewpoints, and also allow for free speech and expression. Student safety is the instructor's first priority. Feel free to discuss with her at any time.

This course has considerable in-class participation in the movement and theory processes taught in the classroom, attendance is critical for learning. The content of each class builds on the content covered in the prior class. Students who are absent will be expected to proactively seek out and understand the information covered in class. All material may be included in the evaluation of the student whether absent or not.

Student Handbook

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

Services for Students With Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to Disability Support Services.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: Campus Carry Rules and Policies

Concealed Carry in Laboratories:

Participation in laboratory classes (acting, voice, movement) often requires students to wear yoga, movement, or period style clothes/costumes. These types of garments may be thin or form fitting which may make concealed carry of a firearm difficult if not impossible. In addition, students are often required to make physical contact with other students while learning exercises, choreography and/or physical positioning within special technique work. This required physical contact may also make concealment of a firearm difficult. While concealed carry is not prohibited in laboratory style class, students are reminded that intentional display of a firearm may result in criminal and/or civil penalties and unintentional display of a firearm is a violation of university policies and may result in disciplinary actions up to and including expulsion from the program and university. Students should factor the above in their decision as to whether or not to conceal carry in any theatre laboratory class.

Safe Zone Statement

The professor considers this classroom (or whatever space this class is meeting) to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being – regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is the professor's expectation that ALL students consider the classroom/meeting location a safe environment.

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. You will be notified of any changes as they occur.