



Course Syllabus: History of Musical Theatre

**Fain College of Fine Arts
23676 - THEA 3023 - 201
Spring 2025 Semester
Jan 21, 2025 - May 17, 2025**

Contact Information

Instructor: Professor RJ Magee, MFA

Office: B107

Office hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 12:30-1:30 PM, Tuesday/Thursday
11:30-12:30 PM (other times available by appointment)

Cell Phone: (314) 397-4673

E-mail: richard.magee@msutexas.edu

Course Description

A study of the history and development of the musical theatre art form. Also includes discussion of leading theatrical figures and movements that defined the musical theatre art form.

Continued enrollment in the course constitutes a formal agreement to abide by all policies and procedures that are outlined in the syllabus.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Articles and readings will be assigned throughout the semester. However, there is no required textbook to purchase for this course.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work, not the individual to whom credit is given). AI tools or usage is not allowed in this class in any way, shape, or form. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Assignments	Points
Participation	200
Presentation #1	150
Presentation #2	150
Midterm Exam	150
Final Reflection Paper	150
Final Exam	200
Total Points	1000

Grade	Points
A	900
B	800 to 899
C	700 to 799
D	600 to 699
F	Less than 600

Homework

The final reflection paper, as well as PowerPoints for presentations must be uploaded to D2L prior to the due date.

Exams

There will be two exams for this course: a midterm exam and a final exam. The exams will mostly consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The two exams are worth a total of 40% of your final grade.

Projects Required

Over the course of the semester, every student will present on two separate shows/topics related to the history of musical theatre. PowerPoints, videos, and live performances may all be utilized for these presentations.

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted.

Make-up Work/Tests

Missed assignments and tests can only be made up at the instructor's discretion.

Important Dates

For the last day for term schedule changes, the deadline to file for graduation, and the last day to drop with a grade of "W," please check the [Academic Calendar](#).

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning before being dropped from the class. Student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. **After two unexcused absences, each additional absence will result in the student's grade lowering by one letter grade.** Unexcused versus excused absences will be determined at the professor's discretion. Additionally, arriving late to class on multiple occasions will equal absences at the instructor's discretion. Always arrive on time and be prepared to stay the entire time scheduled for the course. 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 more than 10 minutes late or leave more than 10 minutes before the end of class, you will be counted absent for that day. If you expect to be more than 10 minutes late do not come to class. It is disruptive to your classmates.

Inclement Weather Policy

If the university is closed due to inclement weather, our class will not meet in-person or virtually. However, asynchronous assignments may be given so students are still expected to check their email and D2L for updates and instructions.

Cell Phones and Other Recording Devices

The use of cell phones and other recording or electronic devices is strictly prohibited during 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.

Online Computer Requirements

It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ****Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered a reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ****Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!*** There are many places to access your class! Our class can be accessed from any computer in the world that is connected to the internet. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees, and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. However, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans, and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

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 an 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](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state, and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License-to-carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by the MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor at ANY time.

CLASS SCHEDULE

History of Musical Theatre Spring 2025

Instructor: Professor Richard Magee

Class schedule is SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Date

Assignment Due

WEEK ONE

Jan 21st Introductions

Jan 23rd Syllabus, foundational info

WEEK TWO

Jan 28th Watch/discuss Episode 1: Broadway, The American Musical

Jan 30th Watch/discuss Episode 2: Broadway, The American Musical

WEEK THREE

Feb 11th Watch/discuss Episode 3: Broadway, The American Musical

Feb 13th Presentations: Amaria and Stormie

WEEK FOUR

Feb 18th Presentations: Jay and Gerald

Feb 20th Presentations: Cat and Lex

WEEK FIVE

Feb 25th Presentations: Ang

Feb 27th Watch/discuss Episode 4: Broadway, The American Musical

WEEK SIX

March 4th Watch/discuss Episode 5: Broadway, The American Musical

March 6th Watch/discuss Episode 6: Broadway, The American Musical

WEEK SEVEN

March 11th Spring Break, no class

March 13th Spring Break, no class

WEEK EIGHT

March 18th midterm exam review

March 20th midterm exam, multiple choice and short answer

WEEK NINE

March 25th Watch/discuss first half of Hal Prince: A Director's Life

March 27th Watch/discuss second half of Hal Prince: A Director's Life

WEEK TEN

April 1st Watch/discuss first half of Every Little Step

April 3rd Watch/discuss second half of Every Little Step

WEEK ELEVEN

April 8th Watch/discuss first half of Show Business The Road to Broadway

April 10th Watch/discuss second half of Show Business The Road to Broadway

WEEK TWELVE

April 15th Watch/discuss first half of Six by Sondheim

April 17th Holiday Break, no class

WEEK THIRTEEN

April 22nd Watch/discuss second half of Six by Sondheim

April 24th Presentations

WEEK FOURTEEN

April 29th Presentations

May 1st Presentations

WEEK FIFTEEN

May 6th Presentations

May 8th TBD, catch up, final exam review

WEEK SIXTEEN

Final Exam Date/Time TBA

Multiple choice and short answer exam

Final Reflection Paper due via D2L