

**THEA 3022-201 History of Musical Theatre**  
**SYLLABUS**  
Missouri Western State University—Spring 2023

MWF 11:00-11:50am

Instructor: Morgan Mallory

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Office Hours are MWF from 10-11 and TTh from 11-12:30p, office hours can also be scheduled by the student at <https://morganmsutexas.youcanbook.me>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course is intended to introduce musical theatre as a serious art form capable of altering social discourse. Beginning with developing an understanding of basic musical theatre terminology, this course is designed to allow the general student to experience and understand the art of the musical theatre through lectures, video clips, and recordings. It is a great form of expression. Live theatre sharpens your perceptions while enhancing your creative capabilities. You can reach your audience through storytelling, movement, music, and expression. We will trace the evolution of musical theatre from the Greeks to the present day.

**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 musicals both via script and score.
- Become familiar with the plots, key numbers, and historical significance of landmark musicals.
- Learn about individuals that played key roles in the development of the musical theatre.
- Understand the influence that culture, economics, and politics have had on the musical stage.
- Recognize major genres of musical theatre and identify them by ear.
- Grasp the ongoing development of musical theatre as both an art form and a business.

**TEXTS:** No textbooks are required for this class. The instructor will be lecturing from *Musical Theatre: A History* by John Kenrick—some students find it beneficial to have the book to go over material. **YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO BUY THE BOOK;** all course content will be gone over in class. However, you will be expected to read research-based text for vocabulary and research projects, as assigned by the instructor. You will receive any necessary links to these as they become available.

Other materials:

Handouts provided by instructor

Any additional reading, provided by instructor

**ATTENDANCE AND LATENESS:** 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 lecture for this 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 emailed to me before class 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 performance project, attending out of class rehearsal as needed.
2. **WEEKLY QUIZZES/LISTENING LIST:** On Fridays, you will be assigned 3 vocabulary words and a “listening list” in anticipation for quizzes. These pop quizzes will be given on a weekly basis on a different day determined by the instructor. The lowest 2 weekly quizzes will be dropped. You **must** be present to take the quiz in order to earn the points. These quizzes can not be made up if missed. Quizzes can be done virtually if the student is in quarantine by using both a Lockdown Browser and webcam. Two quizzes will be over assigned scripts for reading—these links will be available the first day of class and the student will have ample time to prepare.
3. **PRODUCTIONS:** View 2 department plays *Moonlight and Magnolias* and *Merry Wives of Windsor* and write a critique. These will be based on 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 validated Midwestern Student ID.
4. **IN CLASS PERFORMANCE:** In groups, prepare and present a performance project, as assigned by the instructor. More details will be given partway through the semester and will give the student ample time to prepare for the performance.

5. RESEARCH PROJECT: Pick a musical theatre practitioner and research their history, any stylings, and their contribution to the genre. Prepare a short informational PowerPoint to teach to the class based on your findings. A five page paper will also be required.

6. TESTS: There will be three in-class tests and one scheduled final that will pull from lecture material given by both peers and instructor. These will be assigned throughout the semester. They will consist of visual recollection, auditory samples, short answer questions, and an essay.

**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 on canvas at any time (which is a GREAT idea!)

Breakdown is as follows:

WEEKLY QUIZZES/PARTICIPATION	100 points
SCRIPT READING QUIZZES, 50 pts each	100 points
PERFORMANCE PROJECT	100 points
PRODUCTIONS –2 critiques, 50 pts each	100 points
RESEARCH PROJECT	200 points
TESTS and FINAL, 100 pts each	400 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.

- When you enter for class you must be prepared with all materials, things to take notes with and on, and a smile, ready to work
- NO CELL PHONES, HEADPHONES or TEXTING. . .phones will be confiscated
- NO gum, food, or drink
- NO sassy attitudes—this is a safe space
- 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:** Electronic devices like laptops and iPads are welcomed in class for note taking. However, web browsing, emails, texting, phone calls, checking phone messages and other extraneous uses of such devices during class are strictly prohibited, and can result in deductions from your class participation grade for the semester – 10 points per infraction. After a third infraction, further disciplinary action may be taken. In other words: surf, text & check messages on your own time. You can NOT take pictures of the slides with your phone. Phones WILL be taken away if they are out/on your desk/anywhere visible during class.

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.

#### 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.

#### 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 individuals 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

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.

