

**THE 480 – Lyric Theatre COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2020
T/R 9:30 PM-10:45 AM PERFORMING ARTS CENTER #120**

**Kelsey Cooper, Adjunct Professor of Theatre
Office Hours: By appointment.**

The information presented in this syllabus is subject to change with adequate notification.

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbook:

Musical Theater: A History by John Kendrick, Bloomsbury Methuen Drama, Second Edition 2017.

Catalog Course Description

This course will concern the questions and problems raised by the fusion of words and music in musical theatre. Classical and popular repertory from many different nations and cultures are examined.

Course Introduction:

This course will provide a thorough grounding in the history of Western musical theatre, and introduce a number of non-Western forms. Students will become familiar with major movements and practitioners, as well as acquiring an appreciation of musical elements.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of this semester, the student will be able to:

1. Identify and discuss the major practitioners, musicals, and movements of Western musical theatre.
2. Analyze the musical elements in any piece from musical theatre.
3. Identify and discuss the non-Western forms presented during the course.
4. Analyze and contextualize any piece of Western musical theatre.
5. Create and deliver a powerful presentation using Prezi software.
6. View, analyze and perform pieces from the shows discussed.

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:

You are expected to do the reading in advance, and come to class prepared to participate in discussion.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grading:

Daily Preparation and participation 20%

Quizzes 10%

Chapter discussions 10%

Performances 25%
Research papers 10%
Viewing Reports 5%
Midterm exam 10%
Final exam 10%

GRADING SCALE: The following grading scale will be used to determine all individual grades as well

as the student's overall grade in the course:

- . A 90%-100% (Exceptional Quality Work)
- . B 80%-89% (Above Average Quality Work)
- . C 70%-79% (Average Quality Work)
- . D 60%-69% (Below Average Quality Work)
- F 0%-59% (Fails to Meet Acceptable Expectations in Quality of Work)

Required Viewing

Students are required to view the two University Playhouse Fall Productions. Dates will be announced in class.

Tickets for productions are available for a nominal fee. You may make reservations by coming by the University Playhouse Box Office (PAC 101) from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on weekdays. Or, you may make advance reservations by phone at any time by calling 903-886-5900 or by email at playhouseboxoffice@tamuc.edu. The Box Office should also be able to direct you as to how to purchase tickets on the online system. Ticket Prices: TAMUC Students/Faculty/Staff (with Valid Student/Faculty/Staff ID) and Children under 18 - \$5.00; Senior Citizens (ages 60+) - \$10.00; Adults - \$15.00.

**Note: Please understand that viewing at least one of the performances listed is an absolute requirement of the course. Part of becoming a skilled actor is viewing other actors' successes and challenges. Clear your schedules now!*

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

WORKING EMAIL REQUIREMENT: It is a course expectation that you have a working email address that you check daily. There may be times that I need to contact you with important information and email is often the speediest and easiest way of doing so.

SAVING OF ASSIGNMENTS: Unfortunately, papers/projects do occasionally get misplaced. Please, for your sanity, save your work on a thumb drive, etc. Do not depend on your paper staying on the hard drive of any university computer, as it will be deleted, altered, or worse –

turned in by someone else as his/her work! Be aware that it is a course expectation that you keep copies of your original and graded assignments until you receive your final grade for the semester.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Communicate, communicate, communicate! If something is occurring that is presenting you with difficulties in this class, let me know. Don't be intimidated. I am here to assist you in success and will do my best to help you achieve it. Talk to me! The easiest and most reliable way to contact me is via email. I check it fairly frequently. Please do not leave a message for me in the main department office.

Student Resources:

Department of Theatre

Performing Arts Center (PAC) 101

Phone: 903-886-5346 (Main Office)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/mmct/default.asp>

Communication Skills Center

Talbot Hall

<http://www.tamuc.edu/litlang/CSC/index.htm>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Policies and Procedures:

CLOTHING: Dress for maximum freedom and movement. You may occasionally be lying and rolling on the ground. Fair warning: the floor may or may not be spotless. Wear comfortable shoes that you can move around in or bring other shoes. Heels, boots, short skirts, tight jeans, and low-cut shirts will all restrict movement (and consequently restrict your ability to participate in class). Do not wear jewelry that will affect your freedom of movement or speech. No hats are allowed to be worn during warm-ups, activities, performances, etc. Also, please keep your hair securely away from your face during all exercises, workshops, and performances in class – it is essential that I be able to see your face during all practical acting exercises.

No one will be excused from a class activity because of clothing concerns; you are required to wear clothing that will not inhibit participation in class activities!

ATTENDANCE: You should realize the vital importance of daily student attendance for developing new skills and understanding new material. *You are expected to attend every class meeting.* I am very strict about this. *There is no way to make up a missed acting class!* If you do not attend class, you may be leaving your partner stranded if in-class time is devoted to partner work, which it often will be! Your absence will effect someone other than yourself – please be considerate. In cases of *extreme* emergency (such as hospitalization or a death in the family), you are required to contact me and any group members, partners, etc. *before* the class you must miss.

I will take roll at the very beginning of each class in order to aid me in calculating your participation grade and tracking your attendance.

The formal attendance policy for this class is as follows: You are allowed two emergency absences in this class with no attendance grading penalty (although your participation grade will still be lowered accordingly upon a missed class). Upon the third absence, the student's overall grade in the course will be reduced by 3 points. This 3 point deduction policy will continue for each subsequent absence. *Due to the mandatory daily interactive nature of this course, upon the sixth absence (regardless of circumstances), the student may automatically fail the course.* (Please be aware that missing a scheduled appointment/coaching time with me without significant and appropriate advance notification also counts as an absence.) Keep up with your absences in this course – this is your responsibility. Do not ask me how many absences you have during the semester; I may not have that information readily available when you need it.

*for more information on the university attendance policy please go to the following link:

<http://www7.tamuc.edu/registrar/attendance.asp>.

LATE ARRIVALS: To further foster a high level of commitment—and because the work we will be doing this semester will involve intensive focus—the class will adopt the following late entry policy. Students must be on time for every class. Entering a class late or leaving early is disruptive to the flow of the class and indicative of a less-than disciplined/committed artist. Please be on time out of consideration to your learning process and the processes of others. If you are late for class, your participation grade will reflect this. The class will begin promptly at 11 a.m. If you arrive after 11:10 p.m., please do not enter the classroom (you will be marked absent regardless). If you arrive within the ten minute grace period, please do so discretely in order to avoid disrupting the class activities/discussions. *It is your responsibility to make sure that you find me after class and document your late attendance for the day—otherwise, your initial marked absence documented during roll will remain.* Also, you are expected to stay until you are dismissed from class. An early departure will also significantly reduce your participation grade. *Two late arrivals (within the ten-minute grace period) or early departures (or any combination of the two) may be counted as one absence in the class.*

CELL PHONES AND LAPTOPS: Please turn off all cell phones upon entering the classroom. Please do not check messages or engage in text messaging during class. This is disruptive to the flow of the course. Further, please take notes by hand and do not use laptops during class.

SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS: All assignments must be submitted in hard copy to the instructor. While you are welcome to email me any questions that you may have, please understand that under normal circumstances, I cannot accept emailed student work at this time.

LATE WORK: *Workshops and Performances* – Under normal circumstances, a missed workshop or performance may not be made up. Late Written Work/Projects – Late miscellaneous homework counting as part of “participation” will not be accepted. Late project-based written work/projects will be deducted a full letter grade each weekday after the assigned due date. This means that if you have to be absent for some reason on the day a written assignment is due, you must give your assignment to one of your classmates to hand in for you, or you will receive a grading deduction. All assignments are due within the first ten minutes of the class period unless I specify otherwise. At 12:40 p.m. on the day that the assignment is due, your assignment will receive one letter grade reduction in credit; at 12:30 p.m. the following day another letter grade will be reduced, and so on. No late assignments will be accepted after one week past the original due date.

EXTRA CREDIT: As a general rule, there is no extra credit offered in this class – please, do not even ask. In the *rare* instance that an extra credit opportunity arises, that opportunity will be announced and equally available to all members of the class.

ADAPTATION OF ASSIGNMENTS: Due to the fluid nature of this performance-based class, some assignments/scheduling may need to be adapted. All changes will be announced prior to implementation.

FOOD, DRINK, GUM, and SMOKING: Please do not bring food or drinks into the classroom at any time (exception: you may bring bottled water with you to class). As this is a course focusing on practical performance, chewing gum is not allowed at any time during class. Students are not allowed to smoke during class time – even when in individual/partner rehearsals at an outside location.

INCOMPLETES: Under normal circumstances, an Incomplete (I or X) will not be given for a final grade in this course.

ARTISTIC CONTENT: Writers and performers have explored a wide range of themes and viewpoints, using a variety of artistic approaches. Pieces will be selected by the students and instructor in order to aid their accomplishments in relation to the course learning outcomes. The pieces chosen and presented may contain ideas, language, or depictions of behaviors/images that you personally find offensive or otherwise disturbing. *Try to concentrate on the performance rather than your opinion about the material in such an instance.* There is also a policy in this class that a performer is required to inform his/her audience that the performance piece may be offensive during the student’s slate. Any class member is always welcome to leave the classroom for that particular performance and return afterward in this case.

PERFORMANCE MATERIAL: All performance material will come from plays appropriate to the unit under study. *No film scripts will be used in this class for performance purposes.* This is a course in acting for the stage – not film. Although there is significant crossover, these two art forms are different in a number of ways. Further, when choosing material, a piece found on the

internet or in a monologue/scene book that is not part of an actual play script will not be acceptable. In order to work on a selection in this class, you must have access to the entire play from which the piece comes.

University Specific Policies and Procedures:

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: This course adheres strictly to the college's guidelines for Academic Dishonesty printed in the *Student's Guide Handbook*. Plagiarism, cheating, or otherwise representing another's work or ideas as your own without proper attribution will not be tolerated. All work must be new and created for this class during this semester by you. It is your responsibility to assure that you understand the definition of Academic Dishonesty at Texas A&M-Commerce. If such an instance occurs, the student will receive an automatic zero for the work in question, and I will immediately report the incident to the Head of the Department. (*You should be aware that this could result in dismissal from school without credit for the semester.*)

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce
James G. Gee Library
Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

**Note: Please be aware that under no circumstances can I implement any disability accommodations without official documentation from the Office of Student Disability Resources and Services at Texas A&M University - Commerce.*

STUDENT CONDUCT: All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Student's Guide Handbook*, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.)

NON DISCRIMINATION NOTICE: Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement Texas Senate Bill – 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et.al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University–Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M– Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus document and/or consult your event organizer. Web url: <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf> Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

This will be distributed the first day of class by the instructor. It will also be available on D2L.