GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course Outline

THEATER ARTS 235A – FUNDAMENTALS OF MUSICAL THEATRE – SCENE/SONG I

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units Semester Hours

THTR 235A Fundamentals of Musical 3 2 hours lecture32-36 hours

Theatre – Scene/Song I 3 hours lab: 48-54 hours

64-72 outside-of-class hours for lecture

144-162 total hours

1. Course Prerequisites

None.

Corequisite

None.

Recommended Preparation

Theatre Arts 130 and 205 and Music 001 or equivalents.

1. Catalog Description

Fundamentals of Musical Theatre - Scene/Song is a performance-oriented course in which students participate in a variety of musical theatre projects incorporating basic singing, acting, blocking, and choreographed movement. During the course, students will perform basic duets, and ensemble musical scenes and songs from the musical theatre repertoire. Ballad and up-tempo songs introduce students to a body of musical theatre literature, and will be used to prepare for auditions and performance work outside of class; while duets and musical scenes help to further integrate singing, acting, and movement skills, as well as develop appreciation of the Musical Theatre as an art form requiring the synthesis and mastery of these diverse skills.

1. Course Objectives

The student will:

* 1. Practice correct basic vocal production, breathing and posture for singing.
  2. Identify and demonstrate musical terms.
  3. Analyze musical theatre scenes and songs from librettos and scores.
  4. Critique acting and singing skills in a musical theatre production.
  5. Synthesize and develop basic acting, singing, and movement skills.
  6. Demonstrate the ability to interpret a character through song.
  7. Demonstrate the ability to logically and believably move from spoken text to song.
  8. Demonstrate basic ability to create and perform appropriate blocking and choreographed movement.
  9. Demonstrate basic ability to choose and perform individually and with others appropriate, believable acting choices in musical theatre scenes and songs.
  10. Develop and perform an audition package consisting of a monologue, and contrasting ballad and up-tempo songs.

1. Instructional Facilities
   1. Large open room with chairs that can be moved.
   2. Piano and bench.
   3. Dry erase board.

THEATER ARTS 235A – FUNDAMENTALS OF MUSICAL THEATRE – SCENE/SONG I page 2

1. Special Materials Required of Student
   1. Recording device for recording assigned songs.
   2. Three ring binder.
   3. Non-glare sheet protectors.

1. Course Content
   1. Correct body posture and breathing for singing.
   2. Exercises in the development of basic dynamics and phrasing.
   3. Exercises in creating appropriate, character-specific movement and dance.
   4. Analysis of librettos and scores for dramatic context and character development.
   5. Genesis and development of the Musical Theatre as an American art form.
   6. Presentation of basic solo ballads and up-tempos for criticism and evaluation.
   7. Presentation of introductory level scenes and songs from the musical theatre genre for criticism and evaluation.
   8. Presentation of an audition package.
   9. Performance recital of monologues, duets, and ensemble scenes and songs at the conclusion of the course.
2. Method of Instruction
   1. Vocal and physical warm-ups led by the instructor.
   2. Libretto and score analysis guided by instructor.
   3. Lectures, audio, and video presentations on the history and development of the American Musical Theatre.
   4. Practical demonstrations by the student in the skill of character analysis developed from lyrics and music.
   5. Written character analyses demonstrating character choices and musical research.
   6. Practical demonstrations by the student in the skills of synthesizing acting, singing, and movement.
3. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance
   1. Demonstration of basic techniques in solo, duet, and ensemble presentations.
   2. Short papers on character development derived from study of librettos, lyrics, and music.
   3. Written analysis of a musical theatre production; or a journal documenting rehearsal and performance processes if cast in a musical theatre production.
   4. Basic oral analysis and evaluation of peer performances.
   5. Completion of a performance recital at the conclusion of the course.
4. Outside Class Assignments
   1. Reading assignments in the textbook.
   2. Research and development of written character analyses.
   3. Memorization of scenes and songs.
   4. Rehearsals of blocking and choreographed movement.
   5. Written critique of a musical theatre production focusing on specific performance techniques and skills; or, a journal documenting the student’s rehearsal and performance processes if cast in a musical theatre production.

THEATER ARTS 235A – FUNDAMENTALS OF MUSICAL THEATRE – SCENE/SONG I page 3

1. Texts
   1. Required Text(s):

Deer, Joe and Dal Vera, Rocco. *Acting in Musical Theatre: A Comprehensive Course*. Taylor & Francis, Inc. 2015.

* 1. Supplementary texts and workbooks:

(1) Craig, David. *On Singing Onstage*. New York, NY: Applause, 2000.

(2) Silver, Fred. *Auditioning for the Musical Theatre*. New York, NY: Penguin Books, 1988.

(3) Sheet music.  
Example Assignments:

(a) Duets & Trios Golden Age: Pre 1968

“Marry the Man Today”

Guys and Dolls

Music and Lyrics: Frank Loesser

Book: Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows

1950

(b) Duets & Trios Contemporary: Post 1968  
“What You Don’t Know About Women”

CITY OF ANGELS

Lyrics by David Zippel, Music by Cy Coleman

Book by Larry Gelbart

1990

(c) Scenes & Songs

“Old Friends”

MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG

Words & Music by Stephen Sondheim

Book by George Furth

1981

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

a. Demonstrate techniques in duet and ensemble musical theatre presentations.

b. Critique acting and singing performances in the context of a musical theatre production.

c. Demonstrate the ability to logically and believably move from spoken text to song.

Date approved by the Governing Board: December 12, 2017