GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course Outline

THEATRE ARTS 234A – FUNDAMENTALS OF MUSICAL THEATRE-PERFORMANCE I

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units Semester Hours

THTR 234A Fundamentals of Musical 3 2 hours lecture: 32-36 hours

Theatre-Performance 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 the equivalents.

1. Catalog Description

Fundamentals of Musical Theatre-Performance is a performance-oriented course in which students learn to apply basic acting techniques to musical-theatre performance. The course will help the student integrate acting and singing training by applying acting skills to both dialogue and lyrics, thus bridging the gap between speaking and singing through the creation of a whole, unified character—one who logically and believably sings, moves and acts. The course accommodates an introduction for students with little or no previous musical-theatre experience. Primary emphasis in this class is placed on the three basic core areas of performing: singing, acting, and movement.

1. Course Objectives

The student will:

* 1. Demonstrate correct basic vocal production and body awareness for singing.
  2. Identify musical terms.
  3. Analyze musical theatre songs and scores.
  4. Critique specific aspects of a musical theatre production.
  5. Synthesize basic acting, singing, and movement skills.
  6. Demonstrate the ability to interpret a character through song.

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

THEATRE ARTS 234A – FUNDAMENTALS OF MUSICAL THEATRE-PERFORMANCE I page 2

1. Special Materials Required of Student

a. A recording device for assigned songs.

b. Three ring binder.

c. Non-glare sheet protectors.

1. Course Content
   1. The importance of the proper use of their voice.
   2. Correct body placement and breathing for singing.
   3. Basic dynamics and phrasing.
   4. Analysis of lyrics for dramatic and character content.
   5. Analysis of music for subtext and dramatic context.
   6. Presentations of exercises and songs for criticism and evaluation.
   7. Presentations of basic acting and song exercises designed to introduce the student to a variety of performance skills.
   8. Presentation of both introductory level solo and duet/trio songs from a variety of musical theatre composers and lyricists.
2. Method of Instruction
   1. Vocal and physical warm-ups led by the instructor.
   2. Lyric and score analysis guided by the instructor.
   3. Laboratory practice of acting and singing techniques.
   4. Periodic lectures on the history and development of the American musical theatre.
   5. 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 and ensemble presentations.
   2. Written analysis of a musical production.
   3. Written character analyses demonstrating appropriate research and acting choices.
   4. Basic oral analysis and evaluation of peer performances.
   5. Final examination consists of a written character analysis and a performance recital.
4. Outside Class Assignments
   1. Reading assignments in the textbook.
   2. Research and development of a written character analysis.
   3. Memorization of lyrics and melody of assigned songs.
   4. Rehearsals of blocking and choreographed movements.
   5. Written critique of a musical theatre production, focusing on specific performance skills and techniques.

THEATRE ARTS 234A – FUNDAMENTALS OF MUSICAL THEATRE-PERFORMANCE 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:

Robison, Kevin. *The Actor Sings: Discovering a Musical Voice for the Stage*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2006.

(1) Linklater, Kristin. *Freeing the Natural Voice*. Brooklyn, NY: Quite Specific Media Group, Limited, latest edition.

(2) Sheet music.

Example Assignments:

(a) Golden Age Piece: Pre 1968

“Where or When”

BABES IN ARMS

Lyrics by Lorenz Hart, Music by Richard Rodgers

Book by Rodgers & Hart

1937

(b) Contemporary Musical Theatre: Post 1968

“A Summer in Ohio”

The Last Five Years

Music & Lyrics by Jason Robert Brown

2002

(c) Non-Musical Theatre Piece

“Everybody’s Working for the Weekend”

Loverboy

1981

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

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

* 1. Demonstrate techniques in solo musical theatre presentations.
  2. Differentiate and identify various styles of musical composition within the canon of musical theatre.
  3. Competency in musical theatre vocabulary by demonstrating proficiency in terminology associated with musical theatre.

Date approved by the Governing Board: December 12, 2017