

Musical Theatre Repertory

THTR 4039:801

Monday/Wednesday/Friday
3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Carlson E012
3 credit hours

COURSE INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS:

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Pamyla Stiehl

Contact Info

Stiehl@colorado.edu
(303) 709-8720

Office/Office Hrs.

By appointment only

Theatre Dept. Office

303.492.7355

C132 University Theatre

Accompanist: Scott Martin

Course Description:

This course is developed around the learning of songs and dances of ensemble numbers from musical theatre that are representative of various periods and styles. In addition to learning the lyrics and choreography to five or six group numbers chosen from the list below, each student will work on individual musical audition pieces.

1904	"Give My Regards to Broadway"	<u>Little Johnny Jones</u>
1945	"June Is Bustin' Out All Over"	<u>Carousel</u>
1948	"Too Darn Hot"	<u>Kiss Me, Kate</u>
1955	"Two Lost Souls"	<u>Damn Yankees</u>
1960	"Telephone Hour"	<u>Bye Bye Birdie</u>
1968	"Hair"	<u>Hair</u>
1972	"Magic to Do"	<u>Pippin</u>
1975	"All That Jazz"	<u>Chicago</u>
1990	"Everybody's Got the Right"	<u>Assassins</u>
1996	"Ragtime"	<u>Ragtime</u>
2006	"Mama Who Bore Me"/"The Bitch of Living"	<u>Spring Awakening</u>

REQUIRED PURCHASES:

Per the rules of the Carlson dance space, you may NOT wear for class any shoes which you have worn outside. Therefore, jazz shoes (and/or character shoes for women) are the only acceptable footwear for class. You will need to have these shoes for every class -- they can be purchased at Boulder Bodywear (ask about their student discount) or any other local dancewear shop. Throughout the semester, if you do not have your shoes for class, you WILL NOT be allowed to participate in any of the movement (for your own safety) and will lose class points. You will also be required to dress appropriately for class. We will be dancing (and sweating), so you will want to plan accordingly.

CALENDAR:

Typically, the first thirty minutes of each class period will be spent in a vocal and dance warm-up, leaving the balance of the period devoted to learning the group number. On some days, however, I will also allot some time for solo audition coaching; I will let you know this in advance so that you may bring your song's sheet music. Each student is required to participate in at least two coaching sessions, worth five points each. Our last Wednesday class will be an **open studio** showing of the material that we have learned during the semester – **April 27, 2011**.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Just a reminder, this is a performance class. Like performing in a show, if you miss a class, it is gone – you cannot "make it up." You are only allowed two absences (**excused or unexcused**) for the semester. As the thrust of the course is ensemble numbers, your absenteeism hurts the entire class. Each absence after two lowers your overall grade by one third of a letter. So if your class average is an A- and you have 5 absences, your final grade is a B-.

*Woody Allen once said that 80% of success is showing up.
Keep in mind that to succeed, the other 20% must be exemplary.*

WRITTEN EXERCISES (2):

1. Audition Exercise: In addition to your performance work, a written assignment (2 pages) is due **APRIL 4, 2011**. For this brief essay, you will need to choose a musical currently playing on Broadway or Off-Broadway or a musical scheduled for the upcoming season at one of the Denver area professional theatres (e.g., Denver Center, Arvada Center, Boulder Dinner Theatre, Candlelight Dinner Playhouse, Carousel Dinner Theatre). You will assume that you are auditioning for this musical and want to prepare the most effective audition possible. Therefore, in your essay, you will need to provide some background on the musical -- its composers and lyricists -- as well as a brief plot synopsis. Then, explain why you would audition for this show. Which character do you see yourself cast as and why? (i.e., character type, vocal type, dance, physicality, etc.) Finally, you will need to detail the audition material you've chosen to prepare and explain why. Be specific. **(Worth 10 pts)**

2. "Character Work" Exercise: For one of the group numbers, I will ask you to "score" your particular role. You must write a 1-page acting analysis which should provide answers to the following dramatic questions: Who am I (character bio, background, and personality/psychology)? What do I want in this number? What is in my way? What is my relationship with the other characters? This assignment will be due halfway through the number's rehearsal period so that I may see the specific acting choices you have made and you may continue progressing toward character/performance specificity. **(Worth 10 pts)**

Late written assignments will not be accepted -- no exceptions!

FINAL EXAM:

Our final exam will be held on the last official day of class – **Friday, April 29, 2011**. I have not yet decided whether the final will be held as a pseudo "open call" audition or if we will use the time to view, discuss, and/or critique the video of our open showing. I will advise later in the semester. Attendance is mandatory, however.

EVALUATION:

Attendance, Preparation, Participation, and Attitude (APPA)

Each class will count as five (5) points toward your final grade. You begin with 5 points:

-1 point	not being dressed properly when warm-up begins
-2 points	did not bring a pencil to class
-4 points	did not bring appropriate shoes to class
-4 points	did not bring sheet music to class
-5 points	unprofessional behavior (talking, horseplay, etc.)
-5 points	not in attendance by the time roll is taken

Also, a quick note about **Attitude** : A positive and humble/unselfish attitude is the sign of a true professional. Please check your ego at the door of the studio. There will be times when you will be featured in the numbers, but also, more often than not, you will need to be a supportive, team player. Any display of "diva" temperament and/or disrespect will lower your overall grade, as 1 to 5 points will be deducted that day, depending on the severity of the behavior.

Since the class meets 44 times, the total number of APPA points is 220 points 75%

Other Course Requirements:

Written Audition Exercise	10 points	} 25%
Written Character Work Exercise	10 points	
Off-book deadlines (memorized lyrics)	10 points	
Solo coaching sessions	10 points	
Final	<u>10 points</u>	

TOTAL POINTS FOR COURSE = 270 points

ATTENDANCE POLICY of the Department of Theatre and Dance

Students are allowed to be absent an equivalent of ONE week of classes. Each absence beyond that will drop the final grade 1/3 of a letter grade. For example, B to B-. It is a departmental policy that there is NO such thing as an excused or unexcused absence. If you are absent, you are absent. TARDINESS IS CONSIDERED AN ABSENCE. If you are not in attendance by the time the instructor has taken roll, you are considered tardy.

- Religious observance or University business MUST be cleared with the instructor in writing prior to the event.
- If a student is unable to meet these basic requirements, they should consider dropping the course.

We understand that over the period of a semester, there is the possibility of a medical situation or family emergency which might impair your ability to participate successfully in this class. However, as this is a performance course, if this situation occurs, it is the student's responsibility to communicate with the instructor regarding an official withdrawal from the course.

- Missed presentations / quizzes due to your absence cannot be made up.

This is an activity course, so the degree of involvement you invest in this course is directly proportional to what you will get out of it. Chronic illness is not compatible with the job of an actor. One of your responsibilities as a performer is to learn how to keep your body and mind fit and alert. If you have more than four excused absences (medical) you will be asked to drop the course.

OTHER CRITICAL C.U. POLICIES

Disabilities: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services no later than **January 21**, so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: (303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>).

Religious Observance: CU has a legal and moral obligation to accommodate all students who must be absent from classes or miss scheduled exams in order to observe religious holidays; students must notify me at least two weeks in advance (in **writing**) of the conflict to request special accommodation. (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/facrelig.html>)

Honor Code: All students of the University of Colorado are subject to the CU Honor Code for academic matters. For details, please see <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode>. Students should note that their work may, at the discretion of the instructor, be evaluated through **Turnitin.com**, a **plagiarism service** provided to all faculty members at CU; and that this service retains a copy of the submitted work for future comparisons. Uncited, plagiarized material will be treated as academically dishonest and given a "0" grade as a result.

Discrimination and Harassment: CU policies on Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, and Amorous Relationships (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>) applies to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff, or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>.

Classroom Behavior: Students are required to adhere to the classroom behavior standards listed in the Rights and Responsibilities Regarding Standards of Conduct found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html>.

University of Colorado Grade Scale:

A	94-100	superior/excellent	4.0
A-	90-93		3.7
B+	87-89		3.3
B	83-86	good/better than average	3.0
B-	80-82		2.7
C+	77-79		2.3
C	73-76	competent/average	2.0
C-	70-72		1.7
D+	67-69		1.3
D	63-66		1.0
D-	60-62	minimum passing	0.7
F	0-59	failing	