

SYLLABUS Fall 2020- **TPP 4252C Music Theatre Scene Study**– 3 credit hours

Instructor	Lynn McNutt mcnuttl@fau.edu (646) 831-0033 Office 166, College of Arts and Letters, Boca Campus Office hours W 1:30-3:30, F 1:30-3:30 and Monday by Appointment
Class Times	T/R 3:30-4:50
Lab Times	M 3:30-4:20
Study Times	M 2:00-3:00pm (subject to change)
Room	PA107, College of Arts and Letters, Boca Campus
Lab Fees	None
Accompanist Fees	\$50/per session x 2 = \$100 Payable to accompanist at time of session by check or cash
Accompanists	Phil Hinton Hintonp@fau.edu
Lab Instructors	Caryl Fantel and Lynn McNutt
Study Support	Aaron Kula akula@fau.edu - conductor and FAU library liaison

Pre-Requisites

BFA Standing and/or permission from the instructor

Required Texts

There is no text for this class.

Other Materials

Scenes and music will be given to you by the instructor. However, you will be responsible for finding, studying and listening to the libretto and scores that your scenes are from. These can be found in the FAU library. You will also be responsible for meeting with your accompanist outside of class for at least an hour slot on each of your scenes for a required two slots a semester. You must bring clearly marked copies of your music for the accompanist.

Course Description

This is an advanced scene study acting class for the BFA theatre major with a concentration in the style of music theatre. Preliminary work in learning how to act heightened language, specifically Music Theatre. This class will build on the actor training established in Acting 3 and Acting Shakespeare.

Lab Description

This will be a technical lab where students will work as a group on vocal technique, music theory and sight singing. Handouts will be provided. Fundamentals of Stage Singing including: beginning music theory, key signatures, time signatures, major and minor tonalities, basic chord progressions. Basics of Voice Production including: learning correct inhalation and breath support, phonation, coordination of voice registers, vowel placement, diction, legato line. Vocal and written homework will be assigned.

Study Support

This will be a study hall where Aaron Kula can help with written lab homework, accompanist support, rehearsal, and text/library sourcing.

Course Objectives

This class will be part technical and part practical. Technically we will learn scene and music scoring focusing on music theatre text and scores. Practically we will learn how to apply the technical aspects to the imaginative creative acting and vocal work. We will work towards maintaining truth while reaching for the vocal and physical size needed to handle music theatre scenes and songs. Scene study will be accompanied by exercises to help meld the technical with the practical. Students will develop a confident working method of handling the Music Theatre style with an emphasis on playing the truth of the scene within the style of the scene. They will be able to break down the text on a technical level and then apply that to their imaginative work. This class will build on the actor training established in Acting 3 and Acting Shakespeare. Continued work using the Stanislavski Method focusing on actions and script scoring. In depth character analysis, character relationships and action choices based on the exploration of character will be continued. Acting skills learned in previous classes will be applied to the style of music theatre. We will work towards maintaining an active truth while reaching for the vocal and physical size needed to handle music theatre.

Lab Objectives

Students will be able to understand the mechanics of the voice and breath in a healthy singing capacity and to structure and improve their singing technique. Students will gain a knowledge of beginning level music theory and sight singing.

Class and Lab Schedules

Weekly Schedules will be provided but due to the nature of the creative acting process, the schedule is subject to change. Most schedule notices will be given verbally in class and/or on Canvas. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the schedule.

Course Requirements

- You will arrange and schedule to meet with your accompanist outside of class for a 1(one) hour slot per song.
- Your active and enthusiastic participation in exercises, rehearsals, presentations and discussions is required.
- Song/Scene work will require memorization and rehearsal time outside of class. A *minimum* of 3 hours a week of outside rehearsal time will be required.
- You are required to bring a recording device to class, labs, and to your sessions with your accompanist to record your accompaniment of songs and vocal exercises. Most phones have this feature.
- You will prepare and fully memorize two contrasting musical theatre scenes which you will present to the class.
- You will maintain these scenes and present both during your final exam time.
- You will research the musical your scene is from and do your actor homework on each song/scene assigned to you.
- On scene presentation days, you must wear clothes appropriate for your character in the scene.
- You will actively observe other student's work and provide feedback in a constructive way with guidelines given to you by the instructor.
- This class can be highly physical at times. If you have any physical problems that may keep you from participating fully please notify the instructor. Also realize that some physical contact between instructor and student may be necessary during exercises and demonstrations. Please inform the instructor if there is any issue that causes you discomfort.

Course Evaluation Method

Students will receive a grade for in class and labs for overall attitude and professionalism (preparedness, peer support, participation in classroom exercises, discussions). Students will receive a grade for every scene showing. Award of points will be determined by the instructor and will be based on preparation as well as performance (i.e. playing actions), proper attire, improvement, written work, and courage.

Scene 1 first showing	10%
Scene 1 second showing	10%
Scene 2 first showing	10%
Scene 2 second showing	10%
Lab vocal work	10%
Lab written work	10%
Attitude and professionalism	10%
Lab Final	10%
Scene Final	20%

Grade	Points
A	96-100
A-	92-95
B+	88-91
B	84-87
B-	80-83
C+	76-79
C	72-75
C-	68-71
D	64-67
D-	60-63
F	0-59
W (Withdrawn)	
I (Incomplete)	

Attendance/Tardiness Policy

“If you are on time you are already 10 minutes late” – Mike Nichols (Oscar, Tony and Emmy award winning director)

Acting is not a skill you can learn from a book. This is an advanced acting class for the serious theatre student. Attendance is mandatory. Always being present and on time is expected of true professionals and is a part of your training.

Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance.

Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of a legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations, or participation in University approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholarship team, musical and theatrical performances, and debate activities. It is the student’s responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absence and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. All legitimate class absences must have an accompanying letter or proof of legitimacy to be considered excused (i.e. University letters requesting the student’s participation, court orders, police reports, obituaries, doctor’s notes).

Illness, without a doctor’s note, will only be excused with prior notice. Failure to notify the instructor prior to the class that you will not be attending due to illness will result in an unexcused absence. Illness, without a doctor’s note, may only be used as an excused absence twice in a semester. If there is a third absence due to

illness, a doctor's note *specifically stating the student was unable to come to class will be required*. A note from FAU's health center or other such health center that only notates a date and time will not be accepted.

For every unexcused absence the student's letter grade will be dropped one full grade.

Three unexcused tardies and/or leaving class early for unexcused reasons three times will be considered one unexcused absence. A doctor's appointment is not an excuse for arriving late or leaving early except in instructor approved cases.

Unexcused absences cannot be made up or compensated for with additional course work. Missed scene work or monologue work will only be rescheduled for excused absences.

Classroom Etiquette

Classroom Dress Code - Please wear comfortable clothes that allow to you move freely and unselfconsciously. If you have to tug and pull at your clothes they are not appropriate. Overly baggy and overly tight clothing are not appropriate for this class.

Scene showings – You will be required to dress and groom as it helps your character development.

Cell phones/electronic devices – Unless being used to record music - Turn off and put away. Do not even look at it. Take notes with pen and paper. *If I see it, or hear it, or I see you looking at it while in your purse or bag, it becomes mine for 24 hours or you may take a full grade lower on your final grade.* Please see the instructor if there is an emergency reason why you might need your phone during class.

Disability policy statement

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

Code of Academic Integrity policy statement

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001. If your college has particular policies relating to cheating and plagiarism, state so here or provide a link to the full policy—but be sure the college policy does not conflict with the University Regulation.