

Montgomery County Community College  
THA 252  
Musical Theatre: Interpreting Song and Scene  
3-2-2

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This specialized course in theatre will explore the practical aspects of musical theatre performance and introduce the student to the history of the genre. Through the study of this American art form, students will expand their performance repertoire as well as their knowledge of groundbreaking shows and prolific composers. Students will workshop material throughout the semester in-class in front of their peers, rehearse and present songs and scenes, and will be required to attend live theatre performances. This course is subject to a course fee. Refer to <http://mc3.edu/adm-fin-aid/paying/tuition/course-fees> for current rates.

**REQUISITES:***Previous Course Requirements*

- THA 105 Improvisation and Fundamentals with a minimum grade of "C"
- MUS 120 Music Fundamentals with a minimum grade of "C"

*Concurrent Course Requirements*

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Apply a practical approach to learning new material and audition technique.	Solo and Group Song Lecture Discussion Assigned Readings Quizzes and Tests AV/Multimedia Materials	Portfolio of Audition Materials
2. Interpret character through application of movement, voice and imagination with freedom and expression.	In Class Rehearsal of Monologues & Scenes Warm Ups Acting Exercises Lecture/Demonstration	In Class Participation Oral Exam
3. Apply skills to the creation of a public performance or presentation of theatrical work (monologue, scene, play or theatre piece), using proper theatrical etiquette and professionalism.	In Class Rehearsal of Songs and Scenes Assigned Readings Acting Exercises	Presentation of Scenes

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
4. Analyze a written text to determine artistic and aesthetic choices used to create a dramatic interpretation of a song (text analysis).	In Class Rehearsal Discussion Readings	Written Exercises Response Papers
5. Utilize appropriate research techniques to create an original performance of a song and scene.	Research Project	Presentation of Songs and Scenes
6. Utilize appropriate research techniques to contextualize theatre against the cultures and historical periods which created it, exploring the history and evolution of musical theatre genre and its composers.	Research Project AV/Multimedia Materials	In Class Research Presentation Listening Exercises to Identify Composer, Show, Song and Character
7. Apply basic music theory and healthy vocal technique to the rehearsal and performance of solo and group song.	Reading In Class Discussions Exercises In Class Rehearsals	In Class Demonstrations Personal Exercises
8. Assess the technique, communication and quality of the student's own work, and the work of others.	Viewing and Critique of Song Work AV/Multimedia Materials Assigned Readings Lecture Discussion	Written Self-Evaluation of Vocal Technique
9. Engage with live theatre and theatre artists to experience and understand theatre arts in practice.	Attending Live Theatre Performance(s) and/or Seminars, Talk Backs with Theatre Professionals	In Class Discussion or Response Paper

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

## SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

All classes will include warm-up exercises for voice, body and imagination. Throughout the semester, students will workshop musical theatre performance selections in class and will present research material regarding the musical theatre. Each class will emphasize a particular concept or skill.

1. Course Introduction
2. Establishing Healthful Habits through Vocal, Physical and Mental Warm-Ups
3. Discussion and Demonstration of Proper Breathing, Proper Vocal Placement, Methods to Achieve Good Intonation, Study of Diction Issues, etc.
4. Identifying Musical Theatre Shows, Composers, Vocal Selections and Storylines
5. Presenting and Sharing Work
6. Solo and Group Song Exploration and Performance
7. Acting Exercises
8. Preparing for Mock Audition Scenario
9. In-Class Rehearsals
10. Viewing and Critique of Performance Work
  - a. Observation
  - b. Aesthetic Value
  - c. Analysis
11. Demonstrations thru Specific Film and Television Examples

## LEARNING MATERIALS:

Linklater, Kristin. (2006). *Freeing the Natural Voice* (Rev Exp edition). Drama Publishers.

And choice of two of the following based on gender and voice part:

*The Musical Theatre Singers Anthology Vol. 1-5* (Soprano/Mezzo/Tenor/Baritone-Bass)

*The Contemporary Singing Actor Vol. 1 and 2* (for Women or Men)

Or

Alternate texts as appropriate to the course

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

## COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Kate Brennan Date: 10/9/2010

Interim VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification:  
Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D. Date: 5/17/2011

Revised by: Michael Whistler Date: 2/10/2013

VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:  
Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D. Date: 2/15/2013

Revised by: Tim Gallagher Date: 12/15/2017

VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Date: 1/8/2018

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. J. F. W. S.", located in the upper left quadrant of the page.

*This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.*