**THEA 4317:** Singing for the Actor I

Fall 2018

**Instructor**: Katherine Noone

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**Office Hours:** To be posted outside 423

**Section Information: 3317-001**

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:** T/Th 9:30-10:50 am FINE ARTS 137

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

“Musical theatre is *total theatre*, an artistic system that not only encourages the use of techniques beyond the spoken word for projecting dramatic ideas but makes non-literal dramatic revelation a priority in the creative and interpretative process. Musical theater is the most collaborative form in all the arts.” (from *The Musical, A Look at the American Musical Theater* by Richard Kislan) The focus of this performance class is to assist the student in development of their singing technique while synthesizing their acting, singing and dancing skills into effective musical theatre performances. The student will explore the script, score, character, vocal demands, and movement requirements in several musical theatre solos. Through critical evaluation, workshops, and performance the student will discover techniques unique to the musical theatre art form.

**Course Objectives/Purpose of this Course**:

This course is designed to enable the student to begin to understand and physically realize acting though song and how this centers on the concept of “song as monologue.” Students will study practical and theoretical concepts that provide an integration of acting, vocal and stylistic techniques, so each supports and strengthens the other. This will occur in a lecture and discussion format as well as a laboratory with instructor and student feedback.

**The Student Will Be Able To:**

* **Create an authentic and believable character through singing and acting**
* **Strengthen his/her audition packages in musical theatre or classical singing through in –class work and feedback**
* **Enhance his/her Audition Repertoire in scope through assigned materials**
* **Develop movement skills and gesture appropriate to a musical theatre through awareness of self and others**

**Required Student Resources/Materials**:

Materials necessary for this course include:

1. *Acting in Musical Theatre: A Comprehensive Course* by Joe Deer and Rocco Dal Vera
2. Purchase of the song literature being studied
3. Music for your accompanist must be purchased/copied and done so in a timely manner.
4. Spiral Bound notebook (for your acting workbook)
5. Method of video recording yourself for in class performances and means to send it to professor via internet (phone with enough space, computer, etc…) at EVERY class.

Suggested materials include:

1. *A Performer Prepares: A Guide to Song Preparation for Actors, Singers, and Dancers* by David Craig

**Evaluation Procedures and Criteria:**

Through active and effective participation in this course a student will address the technique and artistry involved in musical acting. The assessment tool used for the incorporation of these skills will be the combined result of the requirements outlined in the schedule below.

1. **4 separate performances of assigned literature**

Each student will be assigned and perform song literature of many styles and periods in American Musical Theatre. Each performance will be graded and critiqued in a masterclass-type format. Each piece requires a completed *Song, Acting, and Movement Form* be turned in prior to each performance. Each performance will be videoed by the student and a Video Analysis for each piece will be required at the next class period following the performance. **ALL VIDEOS OF EACH PERFORMANCE MUST BE KEPT BY THE STUDENT THROUGH THE FINAL EXAM.** The ending result being that the student will complete this course with 3 solos and 1 audition cut .

1. **Mid-term exam**

There will be one written mid-term exam covering concepts learned in class and from the reading in mid/late October.

1. **Final Exam/performance**

There will be one written final exam and performance (SHOWCASE).

1. **In-class participation/Daily Assignments**

In-class participation is paramount. This is a laboratory-type, hands-on course and true realization will come from verbally evaluating and physically experiencing concepts. Assignments will be given throughout the semester and will be graded and allocated to your class participation grade. Verbally participating with keen insight with the goal of being helpful is expected.

1. **Attendance**

As this is a laboratory-type course, attendance is vital an expected. This is true for yourself as well as your fellow actors who learn from and rely upon you. Absences will affect your final grade – see attendance policy below.

1. **Outside Observation paper:**

In this field, it is very important for a performer to continue to learn from those around him or her. Each student will be required to see a musical during the semester taking this course and write a 2-page paper on how the concepts learned in this course were or were not adhered to in the musical he/she viewed. See handout for specific requirements.

**Responsibilities of the individual class members**:

1. Arrive for each class session in a timely manner, prepared for each session.

2. Notify the instructor BEFORE the class begins if an emergency or illness precludes the student’s presence in class that day. Unexcused absences will negatively impact the student’s grade.

3. Be prepared for the day’s discussion by reading the material to be covered **beforehand** and completing all necessary assignments.

4. Bring all notes, materials, and music to each class session beginning with this syllabus. Bring a method of video recording with you to every class with enough space to record your entire performance.

5. Participate in each class session with 100% of his/her ability.

**Grading**:

Performance 1 Practice: **The Core Song (The Audition Cut)** Song1/4 50 pts.

Performance 1: Song, Acting, Movement form: 20 pts.

Video Analysis 1 Practice: 10 pts.

Performance 1: **The Core Song (The Audition Cut)** Song1/4 80 pts.

Video Analysis 1: 10 pts.

Performance 2 Practice: **Pre-1965 Song** (ballad, up-tempo, character…) 50 pts.

Performance 2 Song, Acting, Movement form: 20 pts.

Video Analysis 2 Practice: 10 pts.

Performance 2: **Pre-1965 Song** (ballad, up-tempo, character…) 80 pts.

Video Analysis 2: 10 pts.

Performance 3 Practice: **1965-now Song** (opposite of choice in Perf. 1) 50 pts.

Performance 3 Song, Acting, Movement form: 20 pts.

Video Analysis 3 Practice: 10 pts.

Performance 3: **1965-now Song** (opposite of choice in Perf. 1) 80 pts.

Video Analysis 3: 10 pts.

Performance 4**: (Final – The Core Song revisited** **(The Audition Cut)** Song 1/4 100 pts.

Video Analysis 4: 10 pts.

Exam 1: Midterm 75 pts.

Exam 2: Final 75 pts.

SHOWCASE PERFORMANCE 50 pts.

Class Attendance/Participation/Reading/Quizzes/Video Analyses: 130 pts.

Outside observation paper: 50 pts.

Total: 1000 pts.

**Attendance/Tardy Policy**

Because of the nature of Acting the Song (being both a lecture and laboratory course), **consistent class attendance is required.** Significant, unexcused (excused absences are absences which are cleared prior to class for significant family or medical reasons accompanied by a note from the professional involved and are left up to the sole discretion of the professor) absences will result in a drop of the final grade according to the following scale:

0-2 absences No Change of Final Grade

3 absences Drop of 50 pts.

4-5 absences Drop of 100 pts.

6-8 absences Drop of 200 pts.

9 or more absences A Failing Grade will be assigned

Three tardies (1-9 minutes) = 1 absence

Tardy more than 10 minutes = 1 absence

**GRADING SCALE:**

A: 900-1000 pts.

B: 800-899 pts.

C: 700-799 pts.

D: 600-699 pts.

F: 599 pts. or below

*Americans with disabilities statement about students with special needs*

Any students with disabilities or other special needs, who need special accommodations in this course, are invited to share these concerns or requests with the instructor as soon as possible.

*Approved academic honesty statement*

*"The academic community is operated on the basis of honesty, integrity, and fair play. NDSU Policy 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct applies to cases in which cheating, plagiarism, or other academic misconduct has occurred in an instructional context. Students found guilty of academic misconduct are subject to penalties, up to and possibly including suspension and/or expulsion. Student academic misconduct records are maintained by the Office of Registration and Records. Informational resources about academic honesty for students and instructional staff members can be found at* [***www.ndsu.edu/academichonesty***](http://www.ndsu.edu/academichonesty)*."*

*“Veterans and student soldiers with special circumstances or who are activated are encouraged to notify the instructor in advance.”*

**Course Outline** (Subject to revision)

**Week 1: Aug. 23**

Welcome and Introduction

Choose: **Song 1 - The Core Song –** The Audition Cut

**Week 2: Aug. 28-30**

**Perform Song 1 practice– Core Song – The Audition Cut**

Entrance and the Vamp

**Week 3: Sept. 4-6**

Chapter 1

**Week 4: Sept. 11-13**

**Perform Song 1 – Core Song – The Audition Cut**

Chapter 2

**Week 5: Sept. 18-20**

Chapter 8: Mapping the Journey of the Song

**Week 6: Sept. 25-27**

**Sept. 27: NO CLASS TETA**

Chapter 8: cont.

**Week 7: Oct. 2-4**

**Perform Song 2 Practice – Pre 1965 Song**

Chapter 3: Making it Matter

**Week 8: Oct. 9-11**

Review

**Week 9: Oct. 16-18**

**Perform Song 2 – Pre-1965 Song**

**MIDTERM**

**Week 10: Oct. 23-25**

Chapter 4: Music

**Week 11: Oct. 30-Nov. 1**

Chapter 4: cont.

**Week 12: Nov. 6-8**

**Perform Song 3 Practice – 1965-now Song**

Chapter 5: Working with Words

**Week 13: Nov. 13-15**

Chapter 5: cont.

**Week 14: Nov. 20 - (No class on Nov. 22 – Thanksgiving)**

**Perform Song 3 – 1965-now Song**

**Week 15: Nov. 27-29**

Chapter catch-up

**Week 16: Dec. 4-6**

Perf. 4: The Core Song revisited (The Audition Cut)

Outside Performance Paper due T, Dec. 5 @ 9:30 am

**Week 17: FINALS WEEK Dec. 10-14**

**SHOWCASE PERFORMANCE Monday, Dec. 10, 3-7 pm REQUIRED**

FINAL: THURSDAY, Dec. 13, 8 am-10:30 am