



The History of Musical Theatre

MUS-159 Fall 2024

Instructor	Stephanie Dean
E-mail	
Course Meeting Days and Time	T, R 11am-12:15pm
Required Experiential Learning Dates	Viewing of one musical on a experiential learning trip to London
Office Hours	By Appointment

Catalog Description:

Musical theatre is the most popular form of theatre in the United States. It is also considered one of the most complex forms of theatre since it requires the cooperation of a variety of practitioners all specializing in different elements. This course will examine the development of the musical, and its significance to pop culture throughout time. We will examine the creators, composers, librettists, lyricists, producers, directors, and performers important to this genre. Finally, we will become familiar with a variety of libretti, scores and productions that serve as historical landmarks. There is a \$200 course fee that will cover transportation and tickets to attend a live musical production, and subscriptions to view productions via streaming. The live production will either be the evening of October 2nd or November 27th (both are Wednesday nights).

Credit Hour Policy Statement:

“This class meets the federal credit hour policy of 1 hour of class with an expected 2 hours of additional student work outside of class each week for approximately 15 weeks for each hour of credit, or a total of 45-75 total hours for each credit.” (Def 1)

General Education Requirements:

This course meets the General Education requirements for Outcome 5 .

Course Learning Objectives:

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Discuss the general timeline of the evolution of the American musical from the 1800s to present time;
- Use appropriate vocabulary and terminology specific to musical theatre;
- Identify key songs, composers, lyricists, directors, choreographers, performers and producers from some of America’s greatest musicals;
- Analyze a musical libretto;
- Speak to how musical theatre is relevant today and where it can be found in pop culture

Methods of Instructions:

A combination of in-class lectures, group discussion, presentations, creative projects, and experiential learning.

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Textbooks and Required Reading:

There will be weekly readings that will be provided to you on Blackboard (opinion pieces, newspaper articles, occasional book excerpts, etc.). There will be fewer on weeks where viewings are assigned. Readings will be due on the first-class period of the week.

In general, theatre is meant to be seen and not read. Contingent upon availability, you will be required to view some productions via streaming **that may include:** *Hamilton, Old Hats, Anything Goes, Oklahoma!, Company, Come from Away, Waitress, Six,* and *West Side Story*. This may change best upon what we are able to see live and what is available via streaming service in the UK.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: (9/3, 9/5): What is Musical Theatre?

- Introduction
- Who are the players? Where are we today?
- How do we research musical theatre?
- Anatomy of a Musical

Week 2: (9/10, 9/12) Song Structure, Timeline Intro

- Song Structure
- Lyrics
- Discussion of *Hamilton*

Week 3: (9/17, 9/19) Musical and Cultural Origins

- Opera, operetta, minstrelsy, Vaudeville, Burlesque

Week 4: (9/24, 9/26) Musical and Cultural Origins

- Tin Pan Alley, Revue, Early Musical Comedy

9/24: *Old Hats*

Week 5: (10/1, 10/3) Jazz Age, Roaring '20s,

- The Harlem Renaissance
- *Shuffle Along*
- *Showboat*

10/1: *Anything Goes*

Possible trip to Nottingham Oct. 2nd

Week 6:(10/8, 10/10): The Golden Age and Revivals

- *Oklahoma!*
- Golden Age
- Revivals

10/8: *Oklahoma!*

Week 7:(10/15, 10/17) The Golden Age and Revivals (continued)

Week 8: (10/29, 10/31): Stage to Screen

- Stage to Screen Transfers
 - The end of the Golden Age
- #### 10/29: Midterm Timeline Due

Week 9: (11/5, 11/7): Small to Big, Big to Small, Small and Big Together

- Advent of the Rock Musical
 - Prominence of Off Broadway and Regional Work
- #### 11/5: *West Side Story*

Week 10: (11/12, 11/14): Small to Big ... continued

- 1970s; Stephen Sondheim
 - 1980s: The Mega Musical and the "British Invasion"
- #### 11/12: *Company*

Week 11: (11/19, 11/21)

- 1990s: The Disney Musical
- Early 2000s

11/19: *Come from Away*

Week 12: (11/26, 11/28): Musicals of the 21st Century

- Original Musicals
- Screen to Stage transfers
- Jukebox Musicals and Revues
- Revivals and Remounts

11/26: *Waitress*

Possible trip to Chester

Week 13: (12/3, 12/5) Catchup

- Where do we go from here?

12/3: *Six*

Week 14: (12/10) Group Presentations

- Wrap-up



Grading Criteria:

Your grade will be based on the following:

- 7-10 quizzes based on production viewings 10 points each
- A Timeline project worth 100 points
- A Group project worth 100 points
- Reading assignments (the number will vary from 0-3 short readings a week): 16 points per assignment

The weight distribution will be:

- Quizzes or Responses to Musical Productions (Streaming): 40%
- Projects: 30%
- Perusal Assignments: 30%

Withdrawal and Attendance policies:

Harlaxton College expects regular class attendance by all students. Students are considered sufficiently mature to appreciate the necessity of regular and punctual attendance, to accept this personal responsibility and to accept the consequences of failure to attend. When absences occur due to emergency or medical reasons, students are expected to notify their instructors of the absence prior to class or to seek the assistance of the College nurse or a member of the Student Experience Team for help in notifying instructors.

Instructors have the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons upon review of appropriate documentation and professional recommendation supporting such a request. In the event of long-term illness, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow a student to complete a course. In these cases, the Dean will need to approve the long term nature of the accommodation.

The Dean of Harlaxton College has the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons.

Each instructor is expected to maintain an attendance policy in keeping with the nature of the Harlaxton program and may consider it in evaluating performance in their courses.

Policy Governing Unexcused Absences:

Harlaxton College operates an attendance policy that is binding on all faculty and students. The number of unexcused absences that are allowed before incurring a penalty is related to the number of times a class meets each week. For courses which meet three times a week, students are allowed a maximum of three unexcused absences during the semester without attracting penalty points. For courses meeting twice a week two such absences are permitted, and for courses meeting once a week a single absence is allowed. Additional unexcused absences will attract a grade penalty of a third-letter grade (A- to B+). Coming to class late or leaving early 2 times equals 1 absence.

Policy Governing Excused Absences.

- Excused absences are not given to facilitate student travel independent of College-sponsored travel.
- Students may be permitted to miss class because of participation in academic field trips.
- Instructors must co-ordinate and confirm academic fieldtrips with the Dean, prior to the commencement of the Semester to ensure their inclusion in the Semester timetable.
- Where authorization for an academic fieldtrip is requested after the commencement of the semester, the request must be submitted to the Dean.

The following information is required:

- Purpose and brief description of the official Harlaxton event or academic fieldtrip.
- Dates, location, and times (as applicable).
- Alphabetical list of students involved [Last Name/First Name] along with their student identification number.

If approval is granted:

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- Instructors affected will be notified at least one week prior to the class period during which absence is anticipated, or as soon as possible.
- Missed class time due to student participation is to be considered an excused absence.
- The grade of a student may not be lowered in any class due to excused absences.
- It is the student's responsibility - to take the initiative by consulting with their instructors before the absence occurs, and - to do what is required by the instructor to make up all missed assignments and/or examinations.
- Instructors are required to assist students in these occasional situations of excused absences.

Honor Code:

All students at the University of Evansville agree to the University honor code: *I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid, nor will I tolerate an environment that condones the use of unauthorized aid.*

AI may be used only with prior permission or direction by the instructor.

- All work submitted in this course must be your own.
- The use of generative AI composition tools, such as those offered by ChatGPT, Google Bard etc. is prohibited in this course except for specific assignments and subject to the instructor's guidelines.
- Work generated by such tools without proper attribution is plagiarism and, thereby, a breach of the University's Plagiarism and Academic Honesty policy.

Disability Policy:

It is the policy and practice of the University of Evansville to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Students should contact Disability Services within the Office of Counseling Services by calling 812-488-2663 to seek services or accommodations for disabilities. Written notification to faculty from Disability Services is required for academic accommodations.

The University of Evansville Disability Services office will share the request for academic accommodations with the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College. Staff members at Harlaxton will meet individually with students to discuss needs and provide additional information related to examinations or other assessments.

Students from partner institutions should provide the appropriate letter of accommodation from their institution to the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College.

Non-Discrimination Statement

The University of Evansville expects all members of its community to treat each other with respect and civility. Harassing behaviors directed towards any member of our community will not be tolerated. As part of its commitment to non-discrimination, the University specifically prohibits harassment based on any other characteristics set forth in its nondiscrimination statement as follows: including race, color, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, creed or religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status and all federally protected groups/classes. Any form of harassment undermines the mission of the University and negatively impacts the University community as a whole.

Prohibited Conduct and Confidentiality

The University of Evansville is committed to fostering an atmosphere free from harassment and discrimination. This commitment includes identifying problems that may lead to sexual harassment and misconduct, as well as other forms of harassment and discrimination, by creating an atmosphere in which the entire University community is sensitive to preventing prohibited conduct. Additionally, the University is committed to providing support and resources to individuals who have experienced prohibited conduct. This commitment includes effectively responding when a student, visitor, guest or program participant is the victim of prohibited conduct.



All campus employees, students, and guests are required to abide by the Title IX and Other Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy, the Harassment and Discrimination Policy, and the Consensual Sexual or Romantic Relationships Between Employees and Students Policy. Violation of these policies could result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion for students and termination for employees.

Faculty members at the University of Evansville are considered “Responsible Employees” under the applicable federal guidelines and the University’s policies. This means that I am unable to offer you confidentiality if you report any incidence of prohibited conduct to me as defined by Title IX statute. If I am made aware of a violation, I am required to report any known information to the Office of Institutional Equity.

You may choose to report the violation yourself the following ways:

Email: · Annie Sills, Assistant Director of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator: cs175@evansville.edu ·

Keith Gehlhausen, Executive Director of HR and Institutional Equity: kg77@evansville.edu ·

Title IX: titleix@evansville.edu

Phone: 812-288-5261

Online: <https://www.evansville.edu/safety/report.cfm>

You may also choose to speak with a Confidential Resource. Confidential Resources are required to maintain confidentiality and cannot report violations to the Office of Institutional Equity:

University of Evansville

- Counseling Services: counselingservices@evansville.edu, 812-488-2633
- Health Center Professionals: healthcenter@evansville.edu, 812-488-2033
- University Chaplain: chaplain@evansville.edu, 812-488-5262

Harlaxton College

- College Nurse: Lesley Selby, RGN, +44 01476 403027, lselect@harlaxton.ac.uk
- Counselling Services: counselling@harlaxton.ac.uk