

Musical Theatre Workshop – THEA3117.02 - Fall 2017

Sam Houston State University

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Office Hours: by appointment

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Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre

Meeting Times: W 3:30 – 4:50pm

Class Location: PAC 184

Office Location: UTC 115

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will focus on the practice of preparing for musical theatre dance auditions. We will prepare for and experience a series of mock dance auditions over the course the semester that cover various styles of dance found in the musical theatre canon. Practice and preparation will include studying basic dance technique, basic musical theatre dance vocabulary, and specific styles of dance found in musical theatre.

(1 CREDIT)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Learn how to function productively and efficiently in a dance audition situation.
- Focus on dance vocabulary that is specific to the musical theatre genre.
- Practice a wide variety and combinations of body isolations layered with the musical theatre dance vocabulary.
- Practice telling a story through the physicality of dance.
- Improve dance technique foundation through the practice of dance warm up exercises and dance phrases.
- Develop techniques to learn dance expertly and efficiently.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

Your grade is based on, but is not limited to the following:

- Demonstrated progress toward achieving the course objectives and your own learning objectives.
- Punctuality: being ready physically and mentally to start class on time.
- Participation and Consistency: full physical and mental engagement in the material being presented in class every class. In addition, expressing verbally, asking appropriate questions, answering questions, offering solicited feedback, and sharing in group discussions—connected with class content.
- Appropriate Attire (see Attire/Personal Belongings.)
- Attitude; showing enthusiasm for the work being presented, having a willingness to incorporate the instructor's feedback into your technical and artistic practice and demonstrating respect for everyone in the room.

Please note that this is a lab class and your presence and full participation are needed for you to excel in the work. The only way to improve in a physical technique class is to physically participate on a regular basis.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

You can have as many absences as you like. However, when you miss class, it negatively affects your progress and your grade. Because this class meets only once a week, you will be allowed one (1) unexcused absence.

Tardiness – Students will not be allowed to be tardy to class. No student will be allowed in the studio once the doors have been closed. Please be aware that failure to be in class on time will result in an absence. Early departures will also count as a half absence. If you have extenuating circumstances that will prohibit you from being on time or require that you leave early (i.e. – coming from a previous class that far away, needing to leave for a doctor's appointment) please inform me in advance. *This does not mean the day of the issue.*

If you know that you will have to be absent for any reason please email me the reason for your absence. This does not excuse you from class, but is a professional courtesy to your instructor. (For example, if you had to miss work, you would contact your employer to cover your shift. Otherwise you would be fired from your job.) If it is for a doctor's appointment, please provide a written, hard copy letter (on letterhead) as to your need to miss class.

ILLNESS POLICY/MISSED CLASSES:

- There are no make-up classes for dance technique courses.
- If you are well, you are expected to be in class and participating to your fullest.
- If you become injured or suffer a prolonged illness during the quarter then you will need to schedule an **in-person** appointment to discuss your situation and develop a plan of action.
- If you are injured and cannot dance, but you are well enough (non-contagious) to attend class, you are required to observe class. I will have you take notes detailing what you observe in class to be turned in to me following class.
- You will NOT be able to make up missed classes with written assignments unless you become ill for a prolonged period of time or significantly injured.
- When observing class please remain alert and listen to the instructor's comments. If you are too ill to do this then you should stay at home and rest. If you are ill and contagious, we all would prefer that you stay home and get well. Please seek professional help for illness and injuries.

ATTIRE/PERSONAL GROOMING:

- Please dress neatly and simply to facilitate ease of movement. Absolutely no baggy clothes of any kind. Clean lines and fitted clothing are essential for dance education. Leotards/unitards/leggings/jazz pants—are all acceptable and great dance wear choices.
- **Footwear**—Please acquire a pair of jazz shoes or jazz sneakers for class. Women, please have character heels in class as per the needs of the combination. You may warm up in socks or bare feet but shoes must be worn for combinations.

- Long hair should be pulled back and SECURELY fastened so that you can dance at your best. This means that your hair will not need attention during the class.
- No excessive, oversized, or dangling jewelry.
- Please use the dressing rooms to change clothing.

STUDIO CONDUCT:

- Understand the class structure and responsibilities of the learner.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the class structure by arriving in the studio prepared for class and allowing for sufficient time to set up.
- Be respectful of your peers and the instructor at all times.
- Receive and apply feedback and correction in a proactive and respectful manner.
- Work safely and effectively in class and allow others to do the same.
- Apply focus and concentration.
- If for some reason you are unable to dance, please inform the instructor before class begins to receive instructions for partial participation/observation.
- In the event of an injury, alert the instructor immediately.
- No street shoes, gum, beverages or food are allowed in the studios; plastic water bottles are permitted.
- Turn off or silence electronic devices *before* you enter the studio. I strongly suggest you do not check them during class time. Enjoy 90 minutes of unplugged time.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy:

University policy states that if any student must be absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day, they must notify their instructor by the 12th calendar day after the first day of the semester.

Americans with Disabilities Act : SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may adversely affect your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk to me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center by calling (936) 294-1720.