

MUSI 1310-002 AMERICAN MUSIC

FALL 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor

Annie Nichols-Burge

Assistant Professor of Fine Arts C. DeVitt Fine Arts 144

Office Location

Levelland Campus

Office Hours

*TBD

I will update once all my voice lessons are scheduled

E-Mail

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Phone

(806)716-2892

COURSE INFORMATION

Meeting Time: Tuesday/Thursday 2:30-3:45

Classroom: Levelland Campus, C Devitt Fine Arts Center 103

COURSE PURPOSE

In this course, we will be taking an in depth look at the development of American Music with a strict focus on the genre of Musical Theatre and how it has evolved, influenced, and been influenced by the American Music industry. Students will become familiar with prominent musical theatre composers and their works, as well as performers and recordings that have developed Musical Theatre into the popular medium that it is today. To accomplish this, students will attend class lectures, read textbook assignments, attend live performances, watch and listen to pre-recorded performances, and learn to analyze the musical material and its relation to text and movement.

CORE OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED

- Critical Thinking: To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- Communication Skills: To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
- Teamwork: To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
- Social Responsibility: To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Identify musical theatre works and elements in a variety of styles
- Identify major composers, librettists, performer, directors, choreographers, and writers
- Critically evaluate the influence of social, political, and technological, and/or cultural ideas on musical theatre.
- Articulate the significance of musical theatre as an art form within historical, cultural and social contexts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Read assigned reading material

- Attend all lectures
- Take notes
- Participate in discussions
- Actively listen and watch musical examples
- Complete required reading materials and homework assignments
- View audiovisual materials on selected topics
- Listen to audio examples
- Complete exams and assignments on the assigned dates
- Attend live performances as required by the instructor (if performances are cancelled, this will be transitioned to an online format)

TEXTBOOK (not required)

There is not a required textbook for this course. However, articles and other reading material needed for class will be on Blackboard or handed out in class.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Access to Blackboard
- Note taking materials
 - The use of tablets and laptops to take notes class is permitted as long as that is their only function. If technology is used for another function besides class related assignments and note taking, the student will be asked to put away their device(s).

GRADING

Grade Scale

A: 90-100 B: 80-89 C: 70-79 D: 60-69 F: 0-59

Grading Breakdown

Attendance/Participation	30%
Musical Reviews	30%
Assignments and Group Work	10%
Listening/Watching Journal	20%
Final Project or Additional Musical Review	10%

ATTENDANCE AND ILLNESS

Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in the course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive. Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of each class meeting and certain grades and assignments include attendance and participation grades. Emailing anichols@southplainscollege.edu is the preferred form of contact for absences.

When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. The student must notify the instructor **before** their absence to arrange make up work. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and turn in make-up materials by the date and time specified by the instructor. Documentation must be provided to the instructor for excused absences. A Covid-19 statement can be found in the official South Plains College statements below.

MUSICAL REVIEWS

For this class, we will watch a variety of musicals in class and students will submit a Musical Review reviewing each performance. In class attendance is a percentage of the Musical Review grade. If the student misses due to an excused absence, they must contact the instructor for a link to view the musical for the review or if one is not available, an alternate assignment as approved and assigned by the instructor. If the absence is unexcused, a make up option will not be provided.

ASSIGNMENTS

There will be some small assignments and some days that we do group work in class. If a student misses due to an unexcused absence, an assignment (especially group work) may not be made up.

LISTENING/WATCHING JOURNAL

Each student will be provided a notebook for their listening/watching journal. We will listen to and watch a lot of music and musicals this semester. As we listen/watch, the student will be asked to complete various activities in relation to the music. These journals will be picked up for grading randomly throughout the semester, so it is important that you bring them and complete the assignments in class.

PARTICIPATION

In class participation is part of your daily grade for this course. Participation will be determined by quantitative measurements including but not limited to: in class discussion, quizzes, in class activities, and group assignments.

For information regarding official South Plains College statements about diversity, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title V Pregnancy Accommodations, and Campus Concealed Carry, please visit:<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>

Note: The syllabus presented above is subject to revision. Any revisions that are made will be emailed to the class roster in a timely manner by the instructor.

COURSE CALENDAR

Fall 2026

Subject to change

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>TIME PERIOD</u>
1	Tuesday 8/25	Syllabus Class Introductions	INTRODUCTIONS
	Thursday 8/27	Introduction to Musical Theatre and Terminology	
2	Tuesday 9/1	"A Little Bit Operatic, A Little Bit Jazz" Jerome Kern, The Gershwins, Cole Porter	JAZZ AGE (1920-1939)
	Thursday 9/3	"The New Standard" Irving Berlin, Rodgers and Hart	
3	Tuesday 9/8	*Musical Review 1: Jazz Age*	
	Thursday 9/10	*Musical Review 1: Jazz Age*	
4	Tuesday 9/15	Musicals based on Real Events	CONTEMPORARY (2000-present)
	Thursday 9/17	Musicals based on Real Events	
5	Tuesday 9/22	"The Titans of the Golden Age" Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Loewe, Frank Loesser	GOLDEN AGE (1940-1959)
	Thursday 9/24	"Moving Away from the Dramatic" Meredith Willson, Harnick and Bock	
6	Tuesday 9/29	*Musical Review 2: Golden Age*	
	Thursday 10/1	*Musical Review 2: Golden Age*	
7	Tuesday 10/6	*Musical Review 2: Golden Age*	
	Thursday 10/8	"Making the Old New" Jule Styne, Leonard Bernstein, Jerry Herman	POST GOLDEN AGE (1960-1969)
8	Tuesday 10/13	"Putting It Together" Stephen Sondheim	
	Thursday 10/15	"Jazz Hands" Kander and Ebb, Bob Fosse, Jerome Robbins	
9	Tuesday 10/20	*Musical Review 3: Post Golden Age*	
	Thursday 10/22	*Musical Review 3: Post Golden Age*	
10	Tuesday 10/27	*Musical Review 3: Post Golden Age*	PRE-CONTEMPORARY (1970-1999)
	Thursday 10/29	"The Rock Opera" Andrew Lloyd Weber, Schonberg and Boublil, Stephen Schwartz	
11	Tuesday 11/3	"The Disney Revolution" Elton John, Tim Rice, Alan Menken, Howard Ashmen	

	Thursday 11/5	*Musical Review 4: Rock Opera/Mega Musical*	
12	Tuesday 11/10	*Musical Review 4: Rock Opera/Mega Musical*	
	Thursday 11/12	*Musical Review 4: Rock Opera/Mega Musical*	
13	Tuesday 11/17	"A New Musical Theatre" Jason Robert Brown, Shaiman and Wittman, Jeanine Tesori, Lin-Manuel Miranda	CONTEMPORARY (2000-Present)
	Thursday 11/19	"Original Stories? We Don't Know Her" Movie Musicals, Ahrens and Flaherty, Pasek and Paul	
14	Tuesday 11/24	*Musical Review Final: Modern*	
	Thursday 11/26	*No Class* Happy Thanksgiving!	
15	Tuesday 12/1	*Musical Review Final: Modern*	
	Thursday 12/3	*Musical Review Final: Modern*	
16	Tuesday 12/8	Finals Week!!!	