THE 480 – Lyric Theatre
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2012
MW 9:30 AM-10:45 AM
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER #126

Instructor: Dr. Jim Al-Shamma, Assistant Professor of Theatre
Office Location: Performing Arts Center #130
Office Hours: M 11:00 AM-1:00 PM; T, H 12:30 PM-1:30 PM; W 11:00 AM-12:00 PM
(and by appointment).
Office Phone: 903-886-5319
Office Fax: 903-468-3250
University Email Address: Jim.Al-Shamma@tamuc.edu

The information presented in this syllabus is subject to change with adequate notification.

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbook:


Catalog Course Description

This course will concern the questions and problems raised by the fusion of words and music in musical theatre. Classical and popular repertory from many different nations and cultures are examined.

Course Introduction:

This course will provide a thorough grounding in the history of Western musical theatre, and introduce a number of non-Western forms. Students will become familiar with major movements and practitioners, as well as acquiring an appreciation of musical elements.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of this semester, the student will be able to:

1. Identify and discuss the major practitioners, musicals, and movements of Western musical theatre.
2. Analyze the musical elements in any piece from musical theatre.
3. Identify and discuss the non-Western forms presented during the course.
4. Analyze and contextualize any piece of Western musical theatre.
5. Create and deliver a powerful presentation using Prezi software.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:

You are expected to do the reading in advance, and come to class prepared to participate in discussion.

Assignments:

1. Quizzes. Six quizzes will test your understanding of the glossary terms in the material covered (the terms are in bold in the textbook). The quizzes will be administered either in class or online – the medium and dates will be announced in advance.
2. Chapter presentations. Students will team up in groups of two at the beginning of the semester. Teams will present chapters from the textbook, using Prezi software. The instructor will provide a tutorial in the software at the beginning of the semester. Teams will not be responsible for playing and analyzing the musical examples – the instructor will do this. Additional instructions will be distributed.
3. Research paper and proposal. You will research and write an 8-10 page research paper on the Lyric Theatre topic of your choice.
4. Term Project. This assignment is designed to give you the opportunity to explore a topic in Lyric Theatre in more depth and to take a collaborative, creative approach to its study. You will be assigned to a group of 4-5 students to create your own original 10-minute musical theatre piece which will be presented in class. Students must utilize musical theatre genres we have studied during the semester. Content of presentations will be further discussed in class. A one-page “concept” paper for this assignment must be submitted and approved. Students will need to meet outside of the regularly scheduled class time to develop their projects.
5. Midterm exam. This will test the student’s understanding of the material through the midterm.
6. Final exam. A comprehensive exam covering the material for the entire semester.

All assignments must be neatly typed (no larger than 12-point font), double spaced, with margins no larger than 1.25 inches. Pages must be stapled together in the upper left hand corner. (No paper clips, torn corners or folder covers please.) Assignments that are not stapled will not be accepted. Buy a stapler today! Assignment may not be longer or shorter than indicated. Additional instructions will be issued for the formatting of your research paper.

Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation and participation</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (6 @10 each)</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter presentations (2 @ 20 each)</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper proposal</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term project proposal</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term project</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points:</strong></td>
<td><strong>340</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
GRADING SCALE: The following grading scale will be used to determine all individual grades as well as the student’s overall grade in the course:

A  90%-100%  (Exceptional Quality Work)
B  80%-89%   (Above Average Quality Work)
C  70%-79%   (Average Quality Work)
D  60%-69%   (Below Average Quality Work)
F  0%-59%    (Fails to Meet Acceptable Expectations in Quality of Work)

WORKING EMAIL REQUIREMENT: It is a course expectation that you have a working email address that you check daily. If you have not already acquired an email address through the university or otherwise, please make arrangements to do so before the next class meeting. There may be times that I need to contact you with important information and email is often the speediest and easiest way of doing so.

WRITTEN WORK: Unfortunately, papers/projects do occasionally get lost. Please, for your sanity, save your work on a disc or thumb drive, etc. Do not depend on your paper staying on the hard drive of any University computer, as it will be deleted, altered, or worse – turned in by someone else as their work! Be aware that it is a course expectation that you keep copies of your assignments until you receive your final grade for the semester.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Contacting the instructor:

Please feel free to visit me during my office hours at any time during the semester. I am here to help! If you can’t make my office hours due to a scheduling conflict, please set up an appointment with me. It is not an imposition. If something is occurring that is presenting you with difficulties with this class, let me know. Don’t be intimidated. Talk to me! The easiest and most reliable way to contact me is via email. I check it fairly frequently. Please do not leave a message for me in the main department office.

Student Resources:

Department of Mass Media, Communication and Theatre
Performing Arts Center (PAC) #101
Phone: 903-886-5346 (Main Office)
http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/mmct/default.asp

Communication Skills Center
Hall of Languages #103
http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/CSC/index.htm
Course Specific Policies and Procedures:

ATTENDANCE: This course follows the attendance policy found in the general catalog. After your third unexcused absence, there will be a 5% grading penalty per absence. A sixth unexcused absence may lead to administrative withdrawal. In order for an absence to be excused, you must contact the instructor in advance and/or provide documentation.

If your partner is absent on the day of the presentation, it is your responsibility to proceed with the presentation. If you are absent on the day of your presentation, and have not made arrangements with your partner or notified the instructor, your presentation grade will be penalized.

*for more information on the university attendance policy please go to the following link: http://www7.tamu-commerce.edu/registrar/attendance.asp

LATE ARRIVALS: I take role at the beginning of every class period. If you arrive after I have taken role, then you are late. It is your responsibility to make sure that you find me after class and document your late attendance for the day—otherwise, your initial marked absence documented during roll will remain. Also, you are expected to stay until you are dismissed from class. Two late arrivals or early departures (or any combination of the two) will be counted as one absence in the class.

ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY:
Cell phones, text message, social media, etc.
Use of cell phones, messaging devices, and other electronic devices (for example, recording devices, music players, PDAs, computers) is prohibited in class unless specifically permitted by the instructor, or if the device is being used as a component of class learning activities. Failure to abide by this electronic device policy may result in corrective action by the faculty instructor. This may include being marked absent on the day of the infraction. Computer use during class time is limited to course-relevant activity. Web-surfing, video watching, etc. are not allowed.

Class recording/image capture
The use of personal recording devices (tape, digital, video, web camera, etc.) requires instructor approval. Student should request permission to record class activity in writing.

LATE WORK: Written assignments are due at the beginning of the class period – otherwise they will be counted late. Late written work/projects will be deducted a full letter grade each class session after the assigned due date. This means that if you have to be absent for some reason on the day a written assignment is due, you must give your assignment to one of your classmates to hand in for you, or you will receive a grading deduction. No assignments will be accepted more than one class period late. Work will not be accepted by e-mail.

EXTRA CREDIT: As a general rule, there is no extra credit offered in this class, except for the exit exam – please, do not even ask. In the rare instance that an extra credit opportunity arises, that opportunity will be announced and equally available to all members of the class.

FOOD, DRINK, GUM, and SMOKING: Please do not bring food or drinks into the classroom at any time (exception: you may bring bottled water with you to class). As this is a course focusing
on practical performance, chewing gum is not allowed at any time during class. Students are not allowed to smoke during class time – even when in individual/partner rehearsals at an outside location.

**University Specific Policies and Procedures:**

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: This course adheres strictly to the college’s guidelines for Academic Dishonesty printed in the *Student’s Guide Handbook*. Plagiarism, cheating, or otherwise representing another’s work or ideas as your own without proper attribution will not be tolerated. All work must be new and created for this class during this semester by you. It is your responsibility to ensure that you understand the definition of Academic Dishonesty at Texas A&M-Commerce. If such an instance occurs, the student will receive an automatic zero for the work in question, and I will immediately report the incident to the Head of the Department. *(You should be aware that this could result in dismissal from school without credit for the semester.)*

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
James G. Gee Library  
Room 132  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

*Note: Please be aware that under no circumstances can I implement any disability accommodations without official documentation from the Office of Student Disability Resources and Services at Texas A&M University-Commerce.*

STUDENT CONDUCT: All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. *(See *Student’s Guide Handbook*, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.)*
Tentative Schedule: (subject to change at the discretion of the instructor)

Chapters listed below refer to the textbook. Unless specified otherwise, a team of students will present each chapter. Teams will be assigned at the beginning of the semester. Depending on the number of students enrolled, the teams will most likely consist of two students each, and each team will present two separate chapters over the course of the semester. During each session, in addition to the presentations, videos of lyric theatre performances will be shown by the instructor, and discussed.

Week 1
Monday, August 27
Introductions and syllabus
Presentation team assignments
Pre-test (not graded)
Introduction to Prezi (today or at next session)

Wednesday, August 29
Chapter 1  Instructor presentation
Chapter 2  Instructor presentation

Week 2
Monday, September 3
NO CLASS – LABOR DAY

Wednesday, September 5
Chapter 3
Chapter 4

Week 3
Monday, September 10
Chapter 5
Chapter 6

Wednesday, September 12
Chapter 7
Chapter 8

Week 4
Monday, September 17
Chapter 9
Chapter 10

Wednesday, September 19
Chapter 11
Chapter 12
Week 5
Monday, September 24
Chapter 13
Chapter 14

Wednesday, September 26
Chapter 15
Chapter 16

Week 6
Monday, October 1
Chapter 17
Chapter 18

Wednesday, October 3
Chapter 19
Chapter 20

Week 7
Monday, October 8
Chapter 21
Chapter 22

Wednesday, October 10
Midterm exam

Week 8
Monday, October 15
Chapter 23
Chapter 24

Wednesday, October 17
Research paper proposals due
Chapter 25
Chapter 26

Week 9
Monday, October 22
Chapter 27
Chapter 28

Wednesday, October 24
Chapter 29
Chapter 30

Week 10
Monday, October 29
Chapter 31
Chapter 32
Wednesday, October 31
Chapter 33
Chapter 34

Week 11
Monday, November 5
Research papers due
Chapter 35
Chapter 36

Wednesday, November 7
Chapter 37
Chapter 38

Week 12
Monday, November 12
Term project proposal due
Chapter 39
Chapter 40

Wednesday, November 14
Chapter 41
Chapter 42

Week 13
Monday, November 19
Chapter 43
Chapter 44

Wednesday, November 21
Instructor presentation:
   Musical theatre after 2000

Week 14
Monday, November 26
Instructor presentations:
   Japanese No Theatre (reading TBA)
   Beijing Opera (reading TBA)

Wednesday, November 28
Instructor presentations:
   The African Griot (reading TBA)
   Muslim Taziyeh (reading TBA)

Week 15
Monday, December 3
Presentation of term projects

Wednesday, December 5
Post-Test (required, but is graded for extra-credit only)
Course Evaluations
Tuesday, December 10, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM
FINAL EXAM