

MUS 3490: History of Musical Theatre I: 1600–1940; 3.0 credits
Fall 2011, Tuesday-Thursday, 9:30–10:45 AM
Evans Chorale Room, Minor Fine Arts Building

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Hoch
Office: 115 Cooper Fine Arts
Office Phone: 706-676-6384 (cell—please try to avoid my office phone)
E-mail: mhoch@shorter.edu (e-mail is always the best way to contact me)
Office Hours: By appointment; early mornings before class work best

Course description: The history of musical theatre from the recorded beginnings of music and drama in Italy (c.1600) through the American musical comedies of Rodgers & Hart (c.1940). Genres explored will include opera, operetta, burlesque, pantomime, vaudeville, tin pan alley, the minstrel show, revue, and musical comedy. Major figures discussed will include composers, lyricists (including librettists/book-writers), producers, directors, choreographers, performers, and conductors. The literature will be explored within a social-historical context.

Required textbook:

McLamore, Alyson. *Musical Theater: An Appreciation*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2004.

Strongly recommended supplement:

Everett, William A. and Paul R. Laird. *Historical Dictionary of the Broadway Musical*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2008.

Other good resources:

DVDs: *Broadway: The American Musical* (6 episodes)
Directed by Michael Kantor. PBS, 2004.

Websites: <http://www.guidetomusicaltheatre.com/>
<http://www.musicals101.com/>

Additional handouts/study guides will be distributed in class and via e-mail.

An extended bibliography will be provided over the course of the semester.

Course requirements and expectations:

Regular and prompt attendance in class is expected. I will grant a limited number of excused absences from class if I am notified (via e-mail or phone) in advance of the absence. College policy allows for up to two unexcused absences without penalty to the grade. An excess of two unexcused absences may result in a lowered final grade (one increment for each unexcused absence). “Tardies” are equivalent to one-half of an absence. If absent or tardy, the student is responsible for any missed work.

Please make note of all quiz dates and alert me to any potential conflicts as soon as possible. Make-ups for quizzes (including the final) will only be given in extreme circumstances and with the note of the Dean or a physician.

Please check your e-mail regularly (every day) for additional handouts, notes, or updates to the syllabus. I will always reply to your e-mails as quickly as possible. If I don’t reply within a few days, please assume that I did not receive your e-mail and contact me again.

Grading:

There will be five quizzes, two short analysis papers, and a final exam. Each will be graded. The final grade will be determined according to the following formula:

Quiz #1 (Part 1):	10%
Quiz #2 (Part 2):	10%
Quiz #3 (Part 3):	10%
Quiz #4 (Part 4):	10%
Quiz #5 (Part 5):	10%
Analysis Paper #1:	15%
Analysis Paper #2:	15%
Cumulative Final:	15%
Other Factors*	5%
TOTAL:	100%

*Examples of “other factors” include the following: having stellar attendance, not being tardy, having a positive attitude, showing enthusiasm for the subject matter (either genuine or feigned), participating intelligently in discussions, preparing for class by doing the reading, consistently meeting deadlines, not missing quizzes, not requesting extensions for papers, seeking help outside of class, and “going the extra mile” with assignments or daily work.

Please make careful note of all due dates for all essays and assignments. Late work will not be given full credit and may not be accepted (at the discretion of the instructor).

The final will cover the entire semester and consist entirely of material on the five quizzes.

Grading scale:

A	93-100	percent
A-	90-92	percent
B+	87-89	percent
B	83-86	percent
B-	80-82	percent
C+	77-79	percent
C	73-76	percent
C-	70-72	percent
D+	67-69	percent
D	63-66	percent
D-	60-62	percent
F	0-59	percent

Shorter College Honor Code:

“I will seek to maintain a high standard of honesty and truthfulness for myself and for the college. I will neither give nor receive any unauthorized aid in my academic work, nor will I permit such action by any member of this community. I will respect the persons and property of the community, and I will not condone discourteous or dishonest treatment of these by my peers.”

Mission Statement:

The Mission of Shorter College is to provide quality higher education, enabling and encouraging student commitment to active life-long learning, personal spiritual values, responsible citizenship, and community and societal leadership in a global context. The College seeks to accomplish this Mission through quality undergraduate liberal arts programs, specialized professional programs, and select graduate programs. Geographically distant locations provide educational opportunities to individuals who are unable to attend classes in a traditional setting. The College affirms a commitment to the Christian faith and strives to integrate Christian values within a nurturing community in its whole process of education.

Disability:

If you have a disability for which you may need accommodations, you are encouraged to contact the Director of Educational Support in FSU 219 (706-233-7323) as early as possible in the semester to discuss your needs.

Student outcomes:

By the end of the semester you should be able to listen to, watch, and examine both familiar and unfamiliar works from early musical theatre literature and...

1. recognize fundamental elements of their structures.
2. describe their principal stylistic features.
3. suggest possible composers and approximate dates of composition.
4. place them in historical and cultural contexts.
5. describe the probable circumstances of their performance.
6. articulate your ideas verbally and in writing.
7. demonstrate critical thinking in your descriptions and analyses.
8. explain what makes the work unique (or not so unique).
8. carry musical, dramatic, and sociological knowledge outside the classroom.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE (revised 05/01/11):

The course will follow the chronological approach adopted by the McLamore textbook, and the textbook will be supplemented with additional information and handouts.

We will adhere to this schedule as closely as possible. I will keep you informed of any adjustments that need to be made or supplemental assignments.

In addition to reading assignments, listening or viewing assignments may also be given. Reading and/or listening/viewing assignments are to be done before the class with which they are associated. The vast majority of reading assignments will be from your textbook.

For each lecture or topic, a study guide will be distributed with important dates, terms, resources, and follow-up questions.

Thursday, August 18 th :	Overview of Course The Evolution of Music and Drama
Tuesday, August 23 rd :	CONVOCATION (no class)
Thursday, August 25 th :	Begin Part One (Chapters 1–4, pp. 1–18)
Tuesday, August 30 th :	Continue Part One
Thursday, September 1 st :	Conclude Part One
Tuesday, September 6 th :	Quiz #1
Thursday, September 8 th :	Begin Part Two (Chapters 5–7, pp. 19–37)
Tuesday, September 13 th :	Continue Part Two

Thursday, September 15 th :	Continue Part Two (through Gilbert & Sullivan)
Tuesday, September 20 th :	Quiz #2
Thursday, September 22 nd :	Continue Part Two (Chapters 8–11, pp. 38–54) Song Choice for Paper #1 (by noon via e-mail)
Tuesday, September 27 th :	NO CLASS (Anton Belov Masterclass)
Thursday, September 29 th :	Conclude Part Two
Tuesday, October 4 th :	Begin Part Three (wrap-up operetta)
Thursday, October 6 th :	Quiz #3
Tuesday, October 11 th :	NO CLASS (Fall Break)
Thursday, October 13 th :	NO CLASS (GTC) Paper #1 (by noon via e-mail)
Tuesday, October 18 th :	Continue Part Three
Thursday, October 20 th :	Continue Part Three
Tuesday, October 25 th :	Conclude Part Three
Thursday, October 27 th :	Quiz #4
Tuesday, November 1 st :	Begin Part Four (Chapters 16–21, pp. 84–118) Song Choice for Paper #2 (by noon via e-mail)
Thursday, November 5 th :	Continue Part Four
Tuesday, November 18 th :	Conclude Part Four
Thursday, November 10 th :	Conclude Part Four
Tuesday, November 15 th :	Quiz #5
Thursday, November 17 th :	Wrap-Up / Review for Final
Tuesday, November 22 nd :	Paper #2 (by noon via e-mail)
Monday, December 5 th :	FINAL EXAM (9:00–noon)

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ADJUSTMENT