

The University of Texas at El Paso
THEA 1100-4202-4206
Syllabus

COURSE INFORMATION

THEA 1100: Voice for Musical Theatre
THEA 4202: Musical Theatre Workshop II
THEA 4206: Musical Theatre Workshop III
CRN: 13445; 14078; 14079
Term: Fall 2023
Delivery Method: In-person
Meeting Day and Time: Tuesdays, Thursdays 12:00-13:20
Location: Fox Fine Arts, Room M404

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Rebecca Frost Mayer, MFA (she/her); Assistant Professor of Instruction
Written Communication: Send email to rfmayer@utep.edu; allow 48 hours for response and please check your email before asking for verbal confirmation of receipt.
Phone Number: (915)747-5502
Office Location: Prospect Hall, Room 307
Office Hours:

- Face-to-Face: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 by drop-in
- Virtual: Same as above; please log into Microsoft Teams and dial me.
- Office hours also available by appointment; please email to request appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

THEA 1100: Course provides basic training in vocal technique, the skills necessary for proficient singing in musical theatre. Voice for Musical Theatre must be taken concurrently with THEA 3226, THEA 4202, and THEA 4206.

THEA 4202, 4206: Scene work from musical theatre, dramatic and music techniques. Large and small groups and solo work.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND UNIVERSITY LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

<u>Student Learning Objective</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
Sing with an increased level of vocal proficiency as demonstrated by consistent accuracy with pitch, rhythm, breath control, and phrasing.	Problem Solving Confidence
Apply Stanislavski-based text analysis and acting technique to three vocal selections from contrasting periods and styles.	Critical Thinking Communication Problem Solving Confidence
Develop repertoire of vocal selections to be used in auditions, professional performances, and community events.	Confidence Entrepreneurship

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Binders (2); one for your workbook and one for your audition/repertoire book
- Pencil and paper for notes
- Water bottle
- Device for recording (to be used in individual lessons only)

Students are required to obtain sheet music for vocal selections. In some cases these are available through the library and may be photocopied. Online digital publishers charge a nominal fee for downloads of sheet music; please budget accordingly.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Assignments for this course are assessed according to rubrics. You can find these rubrics by clicking on the appropriate assignment link in Blackboard and choosing to “View Rubric” from the button beneath the Points Possible for the assignment.

Students' competence with the above learning objectives will be informally assessed during and immediately following in-class activities.

Each assignment will be graded according to the rubric; when the composite of these grades is totaled, grades will be distributed as follows (total percentage will be rounded to the *nearest* tenth of a percent):

- 89.5% and above: A
- 79.5% - 89.4%: B
- 69.5% - 79.4%: C
- 59.5% - 69.4%: D
- 0 - 59.4%: F

Competence will be formally assessed through written assignments (see below) and in-class showings of works in progress.

Grading:

Assignment or activity	Maximum points possible	Course number grade contribution
Attendance	Up to 170 (subject to actual number of class meetings)	THEA 4202-6
First vocal selection - In-class work and showings	Up to 200 points total (up to 50 per work session)	THEA 4202-6
First vocal selection - Written reflection	Up to 50 points	THEA 4202-6
First vocal selection - Vocal technique progress	Up to 50 points	THEA 1100
Second vocal selection - In-class work and showings	Up to 200 points total (up to 50 per work session)	THEA 4202-6
Second vocal selection - Written reflection	Up to 50 points	THEA 4202-6
Second vocal selection - Vocal technique progress	Up to 50 points	THEA 1100
Third vocal selection - In-class work	Up to 100 points	THEA 4202-6
Third vocal selection - Vocal technique progress	Up to 50 points	THEA 1100
Collage Performance - In-class work	Up to 100 points	THEA 4202-6
Collage Performance - Vocal technique progress	Up to 50 points	THEA 1100
Collage Performance - Written reflection	Up to 50 points	THEA 4202-6

Extra credit is not offered in this course.

Projected schedule of class activities and assignment due dates:

Day and date range	In-class activities	Written assignment due dates
T 8/28	Introductions Syllabus Studio expectations	Syllabus acceptance due W 8/30 23:59
R 8/31-T 9/5	Tools for frontloading your process	See Blackboard for written assignment due dates
September	Vocal Selection #1 - In-class work sessions	See Blackboard for written assignment due dates
October	Vocal Selection #2 - In-class work sessions	See Blackboard for written assignment due dates
Early November	Vocal Selection #3 - In-class work sessions	
November - December	Collage Performance - In-class work and rehearsals	
FINAL EXAM PERIOD	Collage Performance - Colleagues, Friends, and Family invited	

Schedule is subject to revision at the discretion of the instructor.

Attendance Policy (Revised Effective Fall 2023):

At each class meeting, sign into the attendance log *when you are ready to remain in the studio, have put away electronic devices, and are prepared to work*. If you sign in and then leave, your name will be crossed out and you will have to sign in again.

A line will be drawn after class starts. If you arrive late, sign in below the line.

Sign in for yourself only.

Attendance Grading (Class Meetings):

A point value between -2 and 5 will be assigned for each class meeting.

5 points: Arrive on time (before class starts) and ready to work at the start of class, stay in class throughout (subject to instructor discretion), keep phone put away.

5 points: Use one of two personal days by emailing instructor prior to the start of class.

4 points: Arrive one to ten minutes late, stay in class throughout, keep phone put away.

3 points: Arrive eleven to twenty minutes late, stay in class throughout, keep phone put away.

2 points: Arrive twenty minutes late or more, stay in class throughout, keep phone put away.

1 point: No attendance after both personal days are utilized; email instructor prior to the start of class.

1 point: Attend class but do not observe dress code.

1 point: Asked to leave class at instructor discretion.

-2 points: No attendance; no email to instructor prior to start of class.

Additional personal days may be granted at instructor discretion and may include days when students are required by the University or the Department to attend events or work elsewhere.

Effective Fall 2023, students will only be permitted to attend class virtually if it is included in an accommodation by CASS.

If a student has a CASS accommodation that includes exceptions for attendance, it is still incumbent on the student to communicate with the instructor regarding missed classes. The student cannot assume that the CASS accommodation is automatic permission to disregard the attendance policy. If a student does not attend class and does not send an email, it will still be accounted for as a no-attendance-no-email regardless of CASS accommodations.

Exceptions to Attendance Policy:

Exceptions to the attendance policy are subject to instructor discretion and are not guaranteed. In the event that exceptions are granted, they will be based on student's track record and ability to communicate clearly and ahead of or during unusual circumstances. Remember: You have two personal days, and in order to use them you must email the instructor prior to the start of class.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Some course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

ILLNESS PRECAUTIONS

Please stay home if you have symptoms of a communicable illness. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations.

EXCUSED ABSENCES AND/OR COURSE DROP POLICY

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

DEADLINES, LATE WORK, AND ABSENCE POLICY

Requests for leniency on due dates and late work are subject to instructor discretion. In order for a due date extension to be granted, the student must contact the instructor via email *before* the day and time that the assignment is due. Please remember to allow 48 hours for instructor response excluding weekends. In most cases, an assignment submitted late with an extension granted before the due date will be graded according to the rubric and then multiplied by 70 percent; in other words, an extension means that you will be penalized by 30 percent.

If a student has a CASS accommodation that includes leniency on or revision of deadlines, it is still incumbent on the student to communicate with the instructor regarding deadlines and due dates. The student cannot assume that the CASS accommodation is a free pass to disregard deadlines.

MAKE-UP WORK

This course is experiential; your participation cannot be duplicated by doing other assignments. In rare, *documented* cases of emergency, the decision to assign make-up work is at the discretion of the instructor.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as one's own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

GUIDANCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The use of generative AI tools such as Chat GPT will not be necessary or helpful in this course. Your written assignments will require you to speak candidly and from personal experience, citing specific examples of the work you have done in class.

AI tools can be helpful in assisting with grammar and sentence structure; however, **using AI tools to edit your tone or style is not recommended for the purposes of this course.** Today's technology is not advanced enough to make you sound more like yourself.

Students must cite any borrowed content sources to comply with all applicable citation guidelines, copyright law, and avoid plagiarism. Instances that violate these guidelines will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

COURSE RESOURCES: Where you can go for assistance

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.

- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.
- [The Miner Learning Center](#): Join peer-led study sessions in person or online to review content and discover study strategies in core curriculum courses.
- [UTEP Edge](#): UTEP's cross-campus framework for student success and empowerment – develops students' assets through high-impact experiences made possible by the expertise and dedication of faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners.

Individual Resources

- [Student Success Help Desk \(SSHD\)](#): Students experiencing challenges or obstacles to academic success including registration, financial, food, housing, and transportation resources may submit a ticket request assistance to studentsuccess@utep.edu
- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.
- [UTEP Food Pantry](#): Non-perishable food items are available to students who are currently enrolled in classes. Bring a Miner Gold Card to Memorial Gym, Room 105, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

COURSE-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Dress Code:

No hate speech.

Avoid printed text and pictures.

Please no large accessories such as hats or jewelry. Instructor reserves the right to ask students to remove accessories.

Instructor reserves the right to ask students to adjust their hair if it impedes movement or causes a safety hazard.

Large nails and piercings may cause safety hazards. Instructor reserves the right to ask students to remove piercings or shorten nails.

Hygiene and Fragrance-Free Policy:

Please shower or bathe and brush your teeth within twelve hours of arriving at class.

Use unscented deodorants, lotions, and hair products.

Do not wear fragrances, perfumes, colognes to class. Instructor reserves the right to ask students to leave class if they are wearing fragrances.

Wear clean clothes to each class.

Personal Boundaries and Consent - Rights and Responsibilities:

Activities and assignments may include physical contact with other class members. You will be given adequate time and space during instruction to discuss your boundaries with partners and grant consent or decline to consent each time before working together. You will not be penalized for asking for alternative instructions, activities, or partners.

Theatre is a physically, intellectually, and emotionally demanding art form. If you need to take a moment to look out for yourself or be alone, you may do so in the studio or briefly step out.

Studio Policies:

Bring a water bottle. Please no other beverages.

Phones are not allowed in the studio during instructional time. Turn smartwatches to airplane mode. A pencil and paper or notebook are required at each class. Students will not be permitted to use a phone, tablet, or computer in place of pencil and paper. When working with text, hard copies of the text are required. Students will not be permitted to use a phone, tablet, or computer in place of hard copy of text.

Daily tasks and assignments are subject to change at instructor discretion.

A note on subject matter (Department of Theatre and Dance):

The performing arts have a power to stir strong emotions, or possibly touch on subjects you might not feel comfortable discussing. If you have concerns about viewing or discussing specific subjects, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations. I expect all discussions—including any that may occur outside of class—to be conducted in a respectful and professional matter.

Syllabus Acceptance:

This syllabus resides on Blackboard. In order to continue participation in this course, you must complete the **Syllabus Acceptance** assignment on Blackboard by the due date. This assignment includes a digital signature indicating that you have asked the *instructor* any questions you may have about the course and your acceptance of the terms of this syllabus.

Failure to complete the Syllabus Acceptance assignment by the due date may result in dismissal from the course.