Fall Semester 2013
Music in American Culture – the American Musical Theater
Music 156 (3 units, UC: CSU) Section 1548  Tuesday & Thursday @ 11-12:25

Syllabus

Week
1  Musical Theater beginnings in America
   American Ballad Opera

2  Burlesque and Extravaganzas
   The development of burlesque productions, differentiated from the later productions labeled "burlesque," which lead to the Extravaganzas of the late 1800's.

3  Developments
   Operetta
   A review of musical productions, commonly called "operettas"

4  Early Broadway to the Roaring Twenties
   leading to modern-story productions of the early Broadway shows – including identification of developments from Extravaganzas, called The Follies.

5  The Great Depression – music of the 50's
   Big productions such as Kern's work

6-8  The Golden Age – 40's 50's and 60's
   Comparison of productions of the great composers of American Theater, including Gershwin, Lowe, and Rogers.

9  Social Themes
   Treatment of miscegenation and women's issues

10-12  Recent Era - 70's 80's and 90's
   Influences on Broadway from abroad

13  Current Productions
   Continuing and scheduled productions on Broadway

14  Modern American Opera
   Recognition of the position of truly American operatic productions from composers such as Leonard Bernstein and John Adams, compared to those shows produced on the Broadway stage which have blurred the distinction between the popular and classical stage productions – reuniting all musical theater productions into one as it was at the beginning of the genre.

15  Summary and Review

16  FINAL
Divisional Student Learning Outcomes:
Discover inspiration: its relevance and value

WLAC Student Learning Outcomes:
Critical Thinking: Analyze problems by differentiating fact from opinions, using evidence, and using sound reasoning to specify multiple solutions and their consequences.
Quantitative Reasoning: Identify, analyze, and solve problems that are quantitative in nature.
Cultural Diversity: Respectfully engage with other cultures in an effort to understand them.
Ethics: Practice and demonstrate standards of personal and professional integrity, honesty and fairness; apply ethical principles in submission of all college work.
Aesthetics: Use multiple modes of inquiry and approaches to experience and to engage with the arts and nature; develop and express personal creative visions throughout all aspects of one's life.

Exams and Grading:
- Essay/homework on topic under discussion for that week = 50 points
- Mid Semester Exam = 20 points
- Final Exam = 30 points

Extra credit (such as attending a live performance) shall not alter grade more than one level

Attendance: Regular and prompt participation is expected and required and shall be considered in calculating the grades. The Schedule of classes states, “The student is expected to attend every meeting of all classes for which he or she is registered. Violation of this regulation MAY result in exclusion from class.”

College Regulations: All the WLAC Standards of Student Conduct including plagiarism, as written in the WLAC Schedule of Classes shall be enforced.