

UHON351: SET THE TIMES TO MUSIC

CRN: TBA

3 CREDIT HOURS

FALL 2026

Meets: Either W, 9:00-11:50AM, Morris 112; delivered In-person

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Instructor's Name: Darryl Clark

Instructor's email: darryl.clark@siu.edu

Office Hours: M and F, 11:00am - 2:00pm via Teams and by appointment

Office Location: Altgeld Hall, Room 303 or Honors 180

Office Number: 618-453-5741 (School of Theatre and Dance Office)

618-453-3076 (Teams phone number)

COURSE GOALS:

In this course, you will get a brief history of the development of American Musical Theatre and how its genres have been utilized to create performance works that were inspired by historical events in United States History

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Presenting students with a survey of the types of musicals that have been created (musical comedy, play with music, revue, concept musical and jukebox musical) and how those forms impact musical based on historical events

- Students will recognize the vast and deep heritage of composers, lyricists, directors and choreographers that have contributed to the construction of musical theatre as a form of art and entertainment
- Observe and assess musical theatre as a live event as well as documented on video/the internet and weigh the strengths of each of these forms of presentation
- Develop a stronger grasp on critical skills and how they apply to works of musical theatre
- Recognize the relationship musical theatre has to popular culture through discussion

UNIT OBJECTIVES

Unit I: The history of the American Musical

Readings and Lectures

Unit II: History Through Musicals: Their Creation and the Product

Viewings and discussion of viewings

Unit III: Set A Time of Choice to Music

Writing a libretto

Selecting and setting songs in the libretto
Performing musical for Final Project

COURSE MATERIALS

Suggested Text:

Edney, Kathryn. Teaching History With Musicals. Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, c. 2017

Edney's text will be supplemented with selected readings from scholars of musical theatre such as Kantor and Maslon, Mordden and Gaines. Historical events will be introduced with readings from Zinn, Harriot and Burns.

COURSE SCHEDULE – ASSIGNMENTS, READINGS AND ACTIVITIES

WEEK 1: Intro to Course and Explanation of syllabus; Receive reading assignment, *Before The Black Crook*; lecture on musical entertainments at the turn of the 19th Century

WEEK 2: Receive reading from Gaines on *Shuffle Along* and Mordden on *Show Boat*; view clips from both if possible and lecture on the development of musical comedy through the 1930s using stage musicals as examples

WEEK 3: Receive reading on Rodgers and Hammerstein from Kantor and Maslon; discuss their major accomplishments and the artists connected to those shows; view clips if time allows

WEEK 4: Discuss concept musicals and their development through the 1960s; view clips if possible. This lecture will be supported by readings from Kantor and Maslon; Mordden

WEEK 5: Read Chapter 1, Edney and reflect on how stage product informs film musical product through discussion

WEEK 6 – 8: Read Chapter 2, Edney, and start to identify musicals that fit inside frame of concepts as explained by author. Start to finalize an event for development

WEEKS 9 - 11: Begin to read through Chapter 3, Edney, while viewing film version of a selected group of musicals based on historical events in US History
The events/musical list is:

The Declaration of Independence/*1776*

The Great Depression/*Annie*

The Vietnam War/*Hair*

The AIDS/Homeless Crisis/*Rent*

**GO SEE COME FROM AWAY, SHRYOCK AUDITORIUM, SIU
CARBONDALE, OCTOBER 22-25, 2026.**

WEEK 12 – 15: Work on Final Project with input from instructor on staging and direction

WEEK 16: Final Presentation; ideally this presentation will be a public event to be shared with Honors Program Faculty, Staff, Students of Honors and Friends. This event may take place during Finals week

GRADING SYSTEM AND SCALE

A maximum of 1000 points can be earned by completing the work assigned during the semester.

The scale follows below:

Attendance: 400 points

As each class session will include a viewing and discussion of a work, or, a lecture about works observed in their historical context, attendance is vital

Mid-Term Exam: 200 points

The exam will measure the amount of historical knowledge retained as well as assess the student's ability to speak of an event in the history of Musical Theatre and its various depictions of historical events and their creators

Quizzes: 200 points

There will be a total of three quizzes, worth 50 points each, that will fall approximately every five weeks. They will be administered synchronously. The fourth quiz grade will be a review of an ongoing journal students will keep during the semester. This journal can include reviews of what they are watching, discursive activity with reading assignments and associations to other performances they have experienced outside this class. There should be a minimum of one entry per week for the semester, making for a total of sixteen entries.

Research/Creative Activity Assignment: 200 points

The Research Assignment will be introduced, in detail, around the middle of the semester. Students will be able to select a historical event and create a short musical based on that event.

MIDTERM GRADE:

Midterm grades will be comprised of attendance and any graded work returned to the students by that time.

FINAL GRADE:

Final grades are based on all work completed and graded by final week. This work content was explained in this document on page five. The scale of points is below:

1000-950 points = A
949-900 points = A-
899-850 points = B+
849-800 points = B
799-750 points = B-
749-700 points = C+
699-650 points = C
649-600 points = C-
599-550 points = D+
549-500 points = D
499-below = F

All students enrolled in this course must earn a C+ or higher to receive Honors credit for the course.

LATE WORK

No work will be accepted late for this class. NO EXCEPTIONS. Assignments are due on the days on which they are scheduled below.

EXTRA CREDIT

Your instructor MAY offer Extra Credit opportunities. Extra Credit opportunities occur throughout the semester and will be announced as they become available. They may be, but not limited to, viewing a performance and writing a formal review of it, selecting a musical discussed during the semester and writing on a certain aspect of it. They will be worth 25 points each, with a minimum of two and a maximum of four given.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY CLAUSE – TO INCLUDE BRIEF STATEMENT ON A.I.

Academic dishonesty in any form on any assignment, test, quiz, exam or project will not be tolerated. Any evidence of academic dishonesty will result in a report to your advisor or Dept. Chair. You will receive no points for that assignment, test, quiz, exam or project and may face judicial action and possibly even expulsion from SIUC.

Academic dishonesty includes:

- Plagiarism: undocumented use of written material by another author or source (websites, journals, books, newspapers, DVDs, recordings, YouTube, etc.) including Play Statements, online or in-class quizzes and tests, and Performance Response Essays—ANY work for this class. These assignments are routinely compared across sections.

Penalties for plagiarism will be reviewed in class and will be strictly enforced.

- Preparing work for another student
- Cheating on quizzes or tests or exams
- Falsifying or manufacturing scientific or educational data-like fake bibliographies, footnotes, etc.
- Presenting false information to a university official
- Aiding or abetting anyone who is attempting the above
- Concealing knowledge of same said practices
- A violation of SIU code.

University's Emergency Procedure Clause:

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT's website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Public Safety's website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in the Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and directions to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these

instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency.

The Building Emergency Response Team will help your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

Students With a Disability:

Instructors and students in the class will work together as a team to assist students with a disability safely out of the building. Students with a disability will stay with the instructor and communicate with the instructor about what is the safest way to assist them.

Tornado:

During the spring semester we have a Storm Drill.

Pick up your belongings and your instructor will take you to a safe area of the basement. Pick up your belongings and your instructor will take you to a safe area of the basement. No one will be allowed to stay upstairs. Stay away from windows. The drill should not last more than 10 minutes. You must stay with your instructor so he/she can take roll. Students need to be quiet in the basement as the BERT members are listening to emergency instructions on handheld radios and cannot hear well in the basement.

Fire:

During the fall semester we have a Fire Drill.

Pick up your belongings and your instructor will take you to either the North or South parking lot depending on what part of the building your class is in. You must stay with your instructor so he/she can take roll. As soon as the building is all clear, you will be allowed to return to class. These drills are to train instructors and the Building Emergency Response Team to get everyone to a safe place during an emergency.

Bomb Threat:

If someone calls in a bomb threat, class will be suspended and students will be asked to pick up their belongings, evacuate the building and leave the premises. Do not leave anything that is yours behind. We will not allow anyone back into the building until the police and bomb squad give us an 'all clear'. **DO NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONES.** Some bombs are triggered by a cell phone signal.

Shooter in the Building:

If it is safe to leave, move to a safe area far from the building away from where the shooter is located. If anyone has any information about the shooter, please contact the police after they have gone someplace safe.

If it is not safe to leave, go into a room, lock the door and turn out the lights.

Everyone should spread out and not huddle together as a group. Don't stand in front of the door or in line of fire with the door. Students' chairs and desks should be piled in front of the glass and door as a barricade and the teacher's desk, podium and anything movable can be pushed against the door. This is intended to slow down any attempts to enter the classroom. If it looks like the shooter is persistent and able to enter, make a lot of noise and have the students use everything in their backpacks to throw at the shooter to distract him.

Silence all cell phones after one person in the room calls the police and informs them of their location and how many people are in the room. Be quiet and wait for the police to arrive. The police are looking for one or more shooters, and they have no way of knowing if the shooter is in the room people are hiding in. For this reason, when the police enter the room, no one should have anything in his/her hands and each person **MUST** raise his/her hands above his/her head.

Earthquake:

In the event of an earthquake, you are advised to take cover quickly under heavy furniture or crouch near an interior wall or corner and cover your head to avoid falling debris. Outside the building are trees and power lines and debris from the building itself that you will need to stay away from. In the building, large open areas like auditoriums are the most dangerous. Do not try to escape on a stairway or elevator. Do not hide under a stairway. We do not recommend that you stand in a doorway because the door could shut from the vibrations and crush your fingers trapping you there.

Rave Mobile Safety Alert System:

We recommend that you sign up for the Rave Mobile Safety Alert System. It is a new system that replaces the WENS system to alert you through emergency text messages on your cell phone and emails for emergencies on campus, weather reports and emergency school closures.

You have to sign up. If you were signed up for WENS it does not roll over. You have to sign up for Rave Mobile Safety Alert System. Go to Saluki Net, go to my records tab, under SIUC Personal Records, click on View My SIUC Student Records, Under Main Menu click on Personal Information, click on View and Update Addresses and Phones, in the middle of the page click [Update Addresses and Phones], under phones click Primary: This will take you to Update Addresses and Phones – Update/Insert, under primary phone number for this address put

in your cell phone and submit. For more information, visit dps.siu.edu, contact SalukiTech at 453-5155 or salukitech@siu.edu.

CPR/Defibrillator and First Aid Class:

If you would like to take a CPR/Defibrillator and/or First Aid class, contact LaVon Donley-Cornett, lavong@siu.edu or call 453-7473.

Women's Self Defense Classes are offered to female students faculty and staff by the Department of SIU Public Safety. For more information contact Officer Mary Stark marys@dps.siu.edu.

Communicating with Your Instructor:

While there is a voicemail on the department's phone, this instructor will not be giving out a cell phone number, so email is best for communicating with your instructor. Be timely (For example, do not send an email right before class and expect your instructor to read it before class meets).

Properly address your email and SIGN YOUR NAME. Write in complete sentences. Organize your thoughts. Pay attention to your instructor's Office Hours, stated on this syllabus, and learn the location of his/her office.

IMPORTANT DATES – FALL 2026

All dates are TBA contingent upon the announcement of the 2026-27 academic calendar at SIU.