**Performing Arts Backstage: A Look Behind the Curtain**   
 **Matt Cox**

**IDH 3931, section 1G86 – Fall 2017  
Thursday -- 9:35 – 10:25 a.m.  (Period 3)**  
**Little Hall, room 117**

University of Florida Performing Arts

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**Email:**[**mcox@performingarts.ufl.edu**](mailto:mcox@performingarts.ufl.edu) **\* best way to reach me**

Office hours:  by appointment

**This course will use Canvas (**[**http://elearning.ufl.edu/**](http://elearning.ufl.edu/)**) throughout the term for announcements, instructions, grades, and other resources.  The instructions and grades will not be distributed in class, so it is your responsibility to check E-Learning to access those materials. All written work must be submitted electronically on E-Learning.**

**Students are responsible for checking the syllabus and E-Learning site at least once each week.  Please be sure to contact Matt Cox early in the semester if you have any questions about accessing or using E-Learning.**

This course is designed to introduce students to how and why performing arts events happen, and the decisions and work behind the scenes, before the performance reaches the stage.

**Objectives:**

* Review the ways and means of performing arts production.
* Examine contemporary aspects of presented performing arts series.
* Explore tour production in the performing arts and differences in performance genres.
* Assess the significance of the performing arts for culture and community.

The course begins with discussion of the performing arts and their creation and production. We will explore several performances this fall in the performance series presented by University of Florida Performing Arts, including the artists’ background and work. There will be backstage tours of the Phillips Center. The course requires attendance for at least two performances.

Topics include:

* Producing performances and performing arts tours
* Performing arts venues
* Presenting performance series

**Required Text:**

**The Production Manager’s Toolkit, 1st edition  (2017)  Cary Gillett & Jay Sheehan.  Routledge.**

The textbook is available for purchase via Amazon.com .

**+ occasional readings and other material posted as links in the syllabus or in E-Learning (Canvas)** [see detailed, online schedule and updates]

**Course Requirements**

***Readings*:**Short readings are assigned for most classes.  You are encouraged to do the readings before each class.  You are also encouraged to read the performing arts news on a major news website (e.g., New York Times, Washington Post, available free online) and to peruse online resources regularly. Please feel free to email links and comments to the Instructor.

***Attendance and In-Class Work:***   The course combines material from lecture, discussion, and assigned readings as well as the internet. Class attendance is expected -- much of the in-class presentation and discussion will be different from the textbook and readings.

***Take-Home Assignments:***   There will be three (3) take-home assignments (~1-2 pages each). Instructions and due dates will be posted on E-Learning. These assignments are worth **50 points each (150 points total).** You must turn in completed assignments electronically on E-Learning **no later than class time (9:35 am) on the posted deadline and turn in a hard copy in class**– late work will be accepted only with approval of the instructor if there are serious circumstances. Come prepared to class on the due date to discuss your assignment.

***Exams:***   There are no exams.

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| **Course Requirement** | **Points** |
| Take-home assignments – written papers (3) | **150**points (50 each) |
| Attendance at performances (2) | **50** points (25 each) |
| **TOTAL** | **200 points** |

**Grading Structure for IDH 3931 Section 1G86:**

**Grade         Percent     Points                            Non-passing grades:**

A   (4.0)       93-100       186-200                        **Grade           Percent            Points**

A-  (3.67)     90-92.9     180-185                     C-    (1.67)     68-69.9             136-139

B+ (3.33)     87-89.9      174-179                    D+   (1.33)     66-67.9             132-135

B   (3.0)       83-86.9       166-173                    D     (1.0)       60-65.9             120-131

B-  (2.67)     80-82.9      160-165                    D-    (0.67)     57-59.9             114-119

C+ (2.33)     76-79.9      152-159                     E      (0)          below 57             < 114

C     (2.0)     70-75.9       140-151

**Course Policies**

**Academic Honesty**  
        All students registered at the University of Florida have agreed to comply with the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University."  
         In addition, on all work submitted for credit the following pledge is either required or implied: *"On my honor I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."*

All course work, including written assignments and exams, must be your original and individual work.  Any cheating or plagiarism, including copying of on-line materials without clear attribution, will result in a failing grade and disciplinary action.  You are responsible for keeping a back-up copy of your paper.  All written assignments must be submitted electronically on E-Learning (and are checked using Turnitin).

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**   
       Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. Contact the Disability Resources Center for information about available resources for students with disabilities. The Dean of Students Office also provides information and resources for students who have concerns or challenges during the semester.

**Counseling and Mental Health Resources**  
Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352-392-1575;  <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>).

**Class Demeanor and Netiquette**

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions, and class-related interactions. UF netiquette guidelines can be found at <http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>. Consequences of inappropriate behavior might include a reduced grade or zero on the assignment, or for very severe cases, a report to the university administration.​

**On-Line Evaluation**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in the course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/Default.aspx> (or use the “GatorRater” link in Canvas. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

**Additional policies and helpful hints:**

* Don’t miss class, and be prompt.
* Don’t put off the readings – come prepared – engage and get more out of the class.
* Do ask questions! Contact the Instructor via email to arrange additional meetings.
* Do get to know the Instructor, and get to know your classmates.
* Do keep up with current arts events and look for connections to course material.
* Please be considerate in class. Silence your cell phone, and don’t text, check social media, etc. or engage in other non-class related activities while in class.
* “Don’t just come to class – be present.”

**Schedule**

Aug 24 Introduction and Orientation

Aug 31 Performing Arts: Society and Significance

Sep 7 Producing: Creating Performances

Sep 14 Producing: The Business of Creating

Sep 21 American Blues: *Taj Mahal and Keb’ Mo’* – Details of the Show

Sep 28 Performing Arts Centers: Venues

Oct 5 Performing Arts Centers: Backstage Tour of the Phillips Center

Oct 12 Presenting Performing Arts: Curating, Connecting

Oct 19 American Musicals: Background – Producing Theatre

Oct 26 American Musicals: *Kinky Boots* – Details of Show (Opt. Oct 30 backstage tour)

Nov 2 World Music: International Arts, Local Communities

Nov 9 World Music: *DakhaBrakha* and Ukraine – Details of the Show

Nov 16 Presenting Performing Arts: Changing Genres, Changing Lives

Nov 30 Performing Arts: Directors, Producers, Impresarios

Dec 7 Creating for Your Community

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\*\* Short readings and other materials will be assigned. Topics may shift according to the pace of the class. Students are responsible for checking the on-line syllabus weekly for updates.