

Behind the Scenes: Producing a Musical
Matt Cox
IDH 3931, section 1H47 – Fall 2018
Thursday -- 9:35 – 10:25 a.m. (Period 3)
Little Hall, room 117

University of Florida Performing Arts
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Office hours: by appointment

This course will use Canvas (<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 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 explores the creative process and history behind a Rodgers and Hammerstein musical. We'll go behind the scenes for a performance of "The King and I" at the Phillips Center.

Objectives:

- Explore the creation of the original Broadway production of "The King and I."
- Learn about Anna Leonowens and King Rama IV, whose lives inspired the musical.
- Review cultural perception in successive productions, including the one on tour this fall.

The course begins with the creative process behind a theatrical production. We will explore the work of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein, especially their encounter with the story of "Anna and the King of Siam." We'll explore further to understand the world of Anna Leonowens and King Rama IV in 1860's Thailand. The course will end with a discussion of creative inspiration, and cultural perception. We will attend a performance of "The King and I."

Required Text:

Rodgers & Hammerstein's The King and I (2016) R. Rodgers and O. Hammerstein. Applause Libretto Library. The book is available for purchase via Amazon.com .

+ occasional readings and other material posted as links in E-Learning (Canvas) [see updates]

For further reading: Something Wonderful by Todd Purdum; Bombay Anna by Susan Morgan.

Course Requirements

Readings: Short readings are assigned for some 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.

Course Requirement	Points
Take-home assignments – short written papers (3)	150 points (50 each)
Attendance at one performance and a written reaction	50 points
TOTAL	200 points

Grading Structure for IDH 3931 Section 1G86:

Grade	Percent	Points	Non-passing grades:			
			Grade	Percent	Points	
A (4.0)	93-100	186-200	C-	(1.67)	68-69.9	136-139
A- (3.67)	90-92.9	180-185	D+	(1.33)	66-67.9	132-135
B+ (3.33)	87-89.9	174-179	D	(1.0)	60-65.9	120-131
B (3.0)	83-86.9	166-173	D-	(0.67)	57-59.9	114-119
B- (2.67)	80-82.9	160-165	E	(0)	below 57	< 114
C+ (2.33)	76-79.9	152-159				
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: Silence cell phones; don't text, check social media, etc.

Schedule

Aug 23	<i>Class canceled – The instructor must drop-off his son for college freshman year</i>
Aug 30	Getting started – Introductions – Performing Arts Presenting, and Musicals
Sep 6	Producing: Creating Performances
Sep 13	Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein – “Something Wonderful”
Sep 20	Performing Arts Centers – Performing Arts Design and Production
Sep 27	1951: “The King and I” on Broadway
Oct 4	Presenting Performing Arts – Producing National Tours
Oct 11	Story and Stagecraft – The Book, Lyrics and Plotting of “The King and I”
Oct 18	Musical Theatre and Cultural Change
Oct 25	Narrative Layers: “The King and I”; “Anna and the King”; “The English Governess”
Nov 1	1862: The British Empire, The Kingdom of Siam
Nov 8	Anna, and The King: Who Were Anna Leonowens and Mongkut Phra Chom Klao?
Nov 15	Productions of “The King and I” Through the Years – Revival and Change
Nov 19	6:00PM Phillips Center Backstage Tour; 7:30PM Performance “The King and I”
Nov 29	Cultural Perceptions
Dec 6	Arts Inspiration and The Communities We Create

** 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.