

# Course Syllabus

## Behind the Scenes

### Instructors:

Matt Cox [mcox@performingarts.ufl.edu](mailto:mcox@performingarts.ufl.edu)

Mark Law [mlaw@honors.ufl.edu](mailto:mlaw@honors.ufl.edu)

### Objectives:

- Review the history of musicals in U.S. theatre.
- Explore the narrative structures of musicals and how they work.
- Understand tour production in the performing arts, and the economics of the arts.
- Assess the significance of the performing arts for culture and community.

### Description:

The course begins with a discussion of the performing arts and their creation and production. We will explore musicals in the performance series presented by the University of Florida Performing Arts, including the productions' development and background. There will be a backstage tour of the Phillips Center, and possibly a production. Attendance for one performance is required.

### Topics include:

- Producing performances and performing arts tours
- Musicals and narrative structure
- Presenting performance series

### Required Text:

*The Secret Life of the American Musical*, 1st ed. (2016) Jack Viertel.

+ occasional readings and other material posted as links in the Canvas

### 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 (30%):** 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 (30%):** There will be two (2) take-home assignments (~1-2 pages each). Instructions and due dates will be posted on E-Learning. These assignments are worth 50 points each (100 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 the approval of the instructor if there are serious circumstances. Come prepared to class on the due date to discuss your assignment.

**Final Presentation and Report (40%):** There will be a final project where you will need to present and deconstruct using the pieces of Viertel one of your favorite musicals.

**Exams:** There are no exams.

**Grades:** A > 93, A- 90-92, B+ 86-89, B 83-85, B- 80-82, C+ 76-79, C 73-75, C- 70-72, D+ 66-69, D 63-65, D- 60-62, F < 60

For more information:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

[. \(https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx\)](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx).

### **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 the 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 that 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.”

## Course Summary:

Date	Details
------	---------