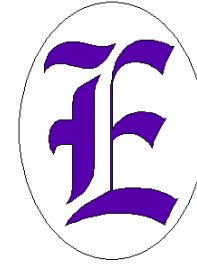




Ephrata High School
Course Syllabus



American Musical Theater

I. Course Description

American Musical Theater is a non-performance music class designed for any student who is interested in learning about the history and development of American Musical Theater through the study of its' elements, its' history, and by learning to appreciate its' importance as a form of musical theater and its' impact on American society.

II. Materials & Equipment

Students will utilize the textbook *Appreciating Musicals*, by William G. Reid, c. 1993 Walch Publishing. The 6-episode DVD documentary series entitled *Broadway – The American Musical* will also be used to introduce students to the development of the musical from the 1800's to the present.. Musicals watched and studied in class may include: Show Boat, Oklahoma, Annie Get Your Gun, Brigadoon, Guys and Dolls, Singin' In the Rain, My Fair Lady, Music Man, West Side Story, Sound of Music, Hello Dolly!, Grease, The Wiz, Annie, Cats, Phantom of the Opera, Newsies, Hairspray, etc.

III. Course Goals & Objectives

- To acquire knowledge of the history and development of the American musical
- To discover the importance of the American Musical as a form of musical theater
- To gain a better knowledge of the evolution and development of this American art form in relation to the historical and sociological context of America
- To be exposed to and to learn to appreciate several examples of the American musical
- To compare the styles of various composers, lyricists and choreographers

IV. Course Topics (Summary Outline)

1. Where and when did the musical originate and what were some of the early types of musical theater that influenced the development of the musical form?
2. How did the history and culture of the 1920s influence Broadway?
3. How did the Depression affect Broadway in the 1930s?
4. What is an integrated musical and who are some of the composers and lyricists who had success with this type of musical?
5. What changes were seen in musicals in the 1960s and 1970s?
6. Who are some of the great lyricists, composers, and creators of musicals from the 1980s to the present and what changes are we seeing in the musical form?
7. Who were the creators of this musical and when did it open on Broadway?
8. What is the plot of this musical and what is the plot based on? Is it a book musical or a concept musical and why?
9. Who are the main characters and what is the importance of each to the development of the plot?
10. What style of music and dance are used in this musical?
11. How does this musical fit into the historical development of this genre?
12. How does this musical reflect the society in which it was written?
13. What are the similarities and differences between these 2 musicals?

V. Assignments & Grading

Students are expected to:

- Take part in viewing the 6 episode series *Broadway – The American Musical* in class
- Participate in discussions and orally respond to questions asked in class based on the series and study guides
- Take 3 tests based on the DVD series and study guides
- Take part in viewing entire musicals and parts of musicals in class
- Take part in discussions and orally respond to questions asked in class based on each musical studied
- Complete a writing/reaction assignment based on each musical studied
- Take a test on each musical studied
- Design and complete a final project (Final Exam) based on research, a performance, a set design, or composition

Students should keep all materials organized in a binder.

Students should keep an open mind when being exposed to new genres of music.

Since much of the class time will be spent on viewing musicals, attendance in class is very important. See Mrs. Owsinski when you return from an absence to make arrangements for making up the work missed.