

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
THEA 2112-001 MUSICAL THEATER PERFORMANCE

Fall 2016 Mon/Wed/Fri 9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. MAB (209) Marshall Auditorium & Yoga Room in Graves-Pearce	Marjorie Scott, Assistant Professor of Communication & Theatre Office: FAB 203A Phone: 432-837-8039 E-mail: mscott3@sulross.edu Office Hours: MWF 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm All other times by appt.
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Course Description

In this course, you will learn and rehearse the choreography for the musical *Cabaret*, which will be the Sul Ross Theater Department's Spring 2017 production.

Musical theater performance requires that dancers “act the dance” as well as perform the steps. Like to actors in a straight play, dancers in a musical are playing a character with a specific point of view and physicality. Movement must be motivated and expressive. Students in this course will learn how to integrate acting technique into intermediate-level musical theater choreography. Students will also work on balance, strength, and flexibility.

Required Text

This class does not require a text but you must acquire a copy of the cast recording of *Cabaret* with Alan Cumming and Natasha Richardson and familiarize yourself with the music. It's on iTunes.

Materials Required

- 1) A working e-mail account. You are required to check your Sul Ross email account daily.
- 2) A working blackboard account.
- 3) Water, water, water
- 4) Character shoes for women (1.5” heel) and jazz shoes for men
- 5) A towel (hand towel or bath towel – your choice)
- 6) Comfortable clothing that allows you to move freely and easily. Leotards are a great choice as are workout/yoga pants. Please be prepared to dance barefoot as well as in your character/jazz shoes.

Student Learning Outcomes *The graduating student will demonstrate*

- 1) Knowledge of eras and contributions made throughout Theatre History and Musical Theatre History.

Additionally, the graduating student with a concentration in Acting/Directing will demonstrate:

- 2) The ability to express themselves creatively through appropriate theatrical performance
- 3) The ability to analyze a script.
- 4) The ability to work creatively with actors and technicians in mounting a laboratory theatrical production.
- 5) The ability to apply standard requirements to all aspects of technical production.

Additionally, the graduating student with a concentration in technical/design will demonstrate:

- 6) The ability to apply all approaches to the theatrical design and rendering of the design.
- 7) The ability to address all technical aspects of a theatrical production.

Additionally, the student will be able to:

- 8) Describe the theater process and compose a functional definition of the theatre event.
- 9) Describe the close link between theatre and religion.
- 10) Name the basic responsibilities and roles of the playwright, director, actor, and designer in the theatre production
- 11) Have a basic understanding of the difference between tragedy, comedy, melodrama, farce, epic, and absurdist theater.
- 12) Describe the uniqueness of the theatre art.
- 13) Understand and describe the elements necessary to bring about a unified production.
- 14) Identify a variety of theater spaces.
- 15) Know the names and works associated with key figures in the theatre.
- 16) Demonstrate an understanding of acting, directing, playwriting, or design in the areas of set, sound, or makeup.

Course Objectives

Among other topics, students will:

- Articulate a working vocabulary of basic Jazz and Ballet steps, moves, positions
- Demonstrate mastery of assigned *Cabaret* choreography
- Develop and demonstrate integration of character work into choreography
- Demonstrate proper warm-up technique
- Articulate a process of self-analysis to chart progress of personal artistic growth

Course Requirements

Attendance & Participation: Regular attendance is expected and you should come to class on time and prepared. On time is early. Your attendance is worth 20% of your overall grade. After two (2) *unexcused* absences, I will deduct a half-letter grade of your overall attendance grade for each subsequent unexcused absence. I also take note of your quality of participation. I invite you to remain open to new challenges and maintain a positive attitude. You will not all be required to attend every class meeting and I will let you know via Blackboard Announcement if you are not called. If you do not hear from me, assume you're called. It is your responsibility to check your Sul Ross email account daily.

Absence Policy, from the Sul Ross State University 2012-2014 Course Catalogue:

“Regular class attendance is important to the attainment of the educational objectives of the University. Each instructor will keep class attendance records, and the instructor's policy on class attendance will be explained at the beginning of the semester or term.

The instructor will drop a student from a course when the student has a total of nine (9) absences.

An absence is defined as non-attendance in fifty minutes of class; for example, non-attendance in a one and one-half hour class will constitute one and one-half absences and non-attendance in a three-hour class will constitute three absences. An absence because of participation in an official University activity is considered to be an authorized absence.”

Cell phones, texting, and engaging in activities unrelated to class are all strictly prohibited. You'll be dancing for the entirety of the class but if you use your cell phone, you'll be asked to leave the class and marked as absent. Please silence or turn off all cell phones and beeping devices BEFORE entering the class.

Excused Absences: Excused absences from class include: religious holidays, an illness (a doctor's note must be submitted to the instructor), a death in the family (an obituary or funeral program must be submitted), or court dates (an official notice from the court must be submitted). If you miss a quiz or project deadline due to illness you must provide written documentation from the Health Center (or an outside health care provider), verifying dates of treatment and the time period during which you were unable to meet academic responsibilities. All other absences will be marked as unexcused.

Practice: Throughout the semester, you will learn and rehearse choreography for the Spring 2017 musical *Cabaret*. You must practice this choreography daily. Daily. This means you must rehearse outside of class.

Weekly E-mail Journal: You must submit an e-mail to me once a week with the following info: 1) What you learned and/or goals achieved this week; 2) What you are

struggling with; 3) One goal for the following week. Please e-mail me at mscott3@sulross.edu. Emails must be received each week by Friday at 5 p.m.

Character Profile: Each student whether s/he is in the show, or not, is required to submit a completed Character Profile by the end of the term. The Character Profile is a binder or notebook of words, writings, images, collages, photographs, etc. inspired by your character in the show. What if you're not in the show, you ask? You must invent a character employed at the Kit Kat Klub (as a dancer, waiter, drag queen, musician, etc.). Include the character's name (make it up if you're inventing a character), age, gender, birthplace, profession, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, socio-economic status, family background, goals, distinguishing physical characteristics (including injuries), general attitude, and the circumstances that led to this character working at a third-rate nightclub in Berlin in 1929. Profiles must be typed and you must include images that show the look and feel of this character. The images do not necessarily have to be from 1929 Germany. Please note that your character is not allowed to be "a bad dancer" just because you may consider yourself a bad dancer. Do the best you can with the choreography. Continue developing your character all throughout the semester. I urge you to explore and experiment. Take risks.

Midterm: We will review ALL choreography at the midpoint of the course and this review will count as your midterm "exam." I will grade you based on the following: 1) How well you know the choreography (i.e. how often you practice outside of class); 2) Your commitment to the dancing (Are you "marking" it, or are you selling it?); 3) Your form (How well you are executing the movements).

Format: All assignments must be typed, in 12-point type, Times New Roman or comparable font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins. I don't have time to decipher your chicken scratch so please don't give me anything handwritten, unless it's a birthday card.

Late Work: I do not accept late work.

Academic Integrity: The University has a Code of Academic Integrity, which prohibits, among other things, cheating on exams, plagiarizing papers or portions of papers, submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without authorization, buying papers, submitting fraudulent documents, forging signatures, and using unauthorized study aids (including old quizzes and exams). This class abides by that code.

Grading

Assignments are valued as follows:

1) Midterm	15%
2) Character Profile	15%
3) Final	30%
4) Weekly E-mail Journal	20%
5) Attendance	20%

Grading Criteria:

A = Exceptional. Demonstrates mastery of material beyond expectation. Professional quality of work. Highest level of scholarship.

B = Above average. Demonstrates mastery of material. High level of scholarship.

C = Average. Demonstrates proficiency with material. Work is of amateur quality. Ordinary level of scholarship.

D = Below Average. Work shows errors, careless mistakes, or is just plain wrong. Poor scholarship

F – Failure. Material incomplete. Work grossly negligent or incomplete. No evidence of scholarship present.

Students with Disabilities

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz, M. Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: [432-837-8691](tel:432-837-8691). E-mail: mschwartz@sulross.edu.

Class Dates: Assignments and Deadlines

Note that these dates and the details of each class are subject to change at the instructor's discretion

DAY	DATE	IN-CLASS EXERCISE/ACTIVITY	DANCERS NEEDED
Monday	Aug 22	Review syllabus. Review basic dance steps.	ALL
Wednesday	Aug 24	Warm-up. Learn some basics	ALL
Friday	Aug 26	Warm-up. Learn some basics	ALL
Monday	Aug 29	Warm-up. Learn "Wilkommen"	ALL
Wednesday	Aug 31	Warm-up. Learn "Wilkommen"	ALL
Friday	Sept 2	Warm-up. Rehearse "Wilkommen"	ALL
Monday	Sept 5	Warm-up. Rehearse "Wilkommen"	ALL
Wednesday	Sept 7	Warm-up. Rehearse "Wilkommen"	ALL
Friday	Sept 9	Warm-up. Learn "Don't Tell Mama"	ALL
Monday	Sept 12	Warm-up. Learn "Don't Tell Mama"	ALL
Wednesday	Sept 14	Warm-up. Learn "Don't Tell Mama"	ALL
Friday	Sept 16	Warm-up. Rehearse "Don't Tell Mama"	ALL
Monday	Sept 19	Warm-up. Rehearse "Don't Tell Mama"	ALL
Wednesday	Sept 21	Warm-up. Rehearse "Don't Tell Mama"	ALL
Friday	Sept 23	Warm-up. Rehearse "Don't Tell Mama"	ALL
Monday	Sept 26	Warm-up. Learn "Mein Herr"	Sally, MC, 6 Ladies
Wednesday	Sept 28	Warm-up. Learn "Mein Herr"	Sally, MC, 6 Ladies
Friday	Sept 30	Warm-up. Learn "Mein Herr"	Sally, MC, 6 Ladies
Monday	Oct 3	Warm-up. Rehearse "Mein Herr"	Sally, MC, 6 Ladies
Wednesday	Oct 5	Warm-up. Rehearse "Mein Herr"	Sally, MC, 6 Ladies
Friday	Oct 7	Warm-up. Rehearse "Mein Herr"	Sally, MC, 6 Ladies
Monday	Oct 10	Warm-up. Rehearse "Mein Herr"	Sally, MC, 6 Ladies
Wednesday	Oct 12	Warm-up. Learn "Money"	MC & 6 Ladies
Friday	Oct 14	Warm-up. Learn "Money"	MC & 6 Ladies
Monday	Oct 17	Warm-up. Learn "Money"	MC & 6 Ladies
Wednesday	Oct 19	Warm-up. Rehearse "Money"	MC & 6 Ladies
Friday	Oct 21	Warm-up. Rehearse "Money"	MC & 6 Ladies
Monday	Oct 24	Warm-up. Rehearse "Money"	MC & 6 Ladies
Wednesday	Oct 26	Warm-up. Learn "Two Ladies"	MC & 2 Ladies

DAY	DATE	IN-CLASS EXERCISE/ACTIVITY	DANCERS NEEDED
Friday	Oct 28	Warm-up. Learn "Two Ladies"	MC & 2 Ladies
Monday	Oct 31	Warm-up. Learn "Two Ladies"	MC & 2 Ladies
Wednesday	Nov 2	Warm-up. Rehearse "Two Ladies"	MC & 2 Ladies
Friday	Nov 4	Warm-up. Rehearse "Two Ladies"	MC & 2 Ladies
Monday	Nov 7	Warm-up. Rehearse "Two Ladies"	MC & 2 Ladies
Wednesday	Nov 9	Warm-up. Rehearse "Two Ladies"	MC & 2 Ladies
Friday	Nov 11	REVIEW ALL CHOREOGRAPHY	ALL
Monday	Nov 14	REVIEW ALL CHOREOGRAPHY	ALL
Wednesday	Nov 16	Warm-up. Learn "Kick Line" (Entr'acte)	MC & 6 Ladies
Friday	Nov 18	Warm-up. Learn "Kick Line" (Entr'acte)	MC & 6 Ladies
Monday	Nov 21	Warm-up. Rehearse "Kick Line" (Entr'acte)	MC & 6 Ladies
Wednesday	Nov 23	Warm-up. Rehearse "Kick Line" (Entr'acte)	MC & 6 Ladies
Friday	Nov 25	NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK	Don't eat too much!
Monday	Nov 28	Warm-up. Rehearse All Choreography	ALL
Wednesday	Nov 30	Warm-up. Rehearse All Choreography	ALL
Friday	Dec 2	DEAD DAY – NO CLASS	N/A
TUESDAY	DEC 6	FINAL EXAM – 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	ALL