

**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY  
FA 3303–FIELD STUDIES  
SPRING 2025**

MON/WED

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Office hours: Mon/Wed 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

All other times by appointment

Office location: FAB 106

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this course, you will learn about the history of American musical theatre and the theatre district in New York City known as Broadway. You will also learn about Off-Broadway, off-off-Broadway, Actor’s Equity Association (AEA), the Tony Awards, Central Park and Shakespeare in the Park, the NYC Metro system, and the history and significance of the major art museums in New York City. The course also includes a 7-day trip to Manhattan where you will experience it all in person! Dates of trip are tentatively scheduled for April 21 – April 27, 2025.

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**PREREQUISITES**

All students must have junior or senior standing or permission from the instructor.

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**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES** *The graduating student will demonstrate:*

SLO 1: The student will develop the ability to express themselves creatively through appropriate theatrical performance and/or design.

SLO 2: The student will develop the ability to employ analytical and critical thinking skills through directing, playwriting, theatre history and script analysis, to work creatively and collaboratively with actors and technicians in mounting laboratory theatrical productions.

SLO 3: The student will develop the ability to demonstrate and apply standard industry requirements to all aspects of technical production.

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**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this class, students will be able to:

1. Explain the history of how Broadway came to be and what it is today.
2. Demonstrate beginner knowledge of Actor’s Equity Association and the function it serves for actors.
3. Explain the difference between Broadway, off-Broadway, and off-off-Broadway
4. List the major art museums in New York City and explain why each is culturally significant.

5. Demonstrate beginner-level knowledge of the history of American musical theatre and its significance on Broadway.
6. Participate in planning a trip to New York City and attend Broadway and Off-Broadway productions.

### **MARKETABLE SKILLS:**

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1. Strong oral and written communication skills.
2. Strong analytical skills.
3. Strong teamwork and collaboration skills.

Through a combination of coursework and laboratory work, i.e., theatrical productions, our students will gain the opportunity to explore and develop all three program marketable skills. Specifically, students will learn how to analyze scripts, and communicate their findings via written assignments. They will also be encouraged to support their analysis orally through classroom discussion and their Comprehensive Oral Exam at the end of the senior year. Theatrical productions will provide the opportunity for actors and technicians to problem solve and work collaboratively developing strong teamwork skills.

### **MATERIALS REQUIRED:**

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- 1) A working Sul Ross e-mail account and mobile device.
- 2) Access to Blackboard.
- 3) Access to Digital Theatre+ (on the Wildenthal Library Database)

### **REQUIRED READING:**

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- 1) All reading and viewing material will be provided by the instructor on Blackboard.

### **TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY**

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As part of this class, you will travel to NYC for 7 days (6 nights) to attend several Broadway shows, Off-Broadway shows, visit museums and other famous sights. Students are responsible for covering their own costs associated with this trip. There are resources to assist with these costs, including financial aid, scholarships, and fundraising.

### **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:**

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- 1) **Quizzes** – There will be three quizzes throughout the course. Quizzes will be administered in class, will cover reading and discussion material, and will include a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. See course calendar for quiz dates, which are subject to change at instructor's discretion.
- 2) **Team Presentation #1:** In pairs (and one group of 3), research, write, and deliver a 7-minute presentation on the history and cultural significance of a major art museum in New York City. Who founded the museum and why? When was the

- museum founded? What significant works of art are part of this museum's permanent collection? And why are these works significant?
- 3) **Class Discussions:** You're required to regularly engage in classroom discussions.
  - 4) **Team Presentation #2 (Midterm):** Working in pairs (and a group of 3), you'll research, write, and deliver a 10-minute presentation on the history and significance of a movement or significant figure that changed American musical theatre. Plan to include examples of productions with music samples and visual aids in your presentation.
  - 5) **Research Paper:** Research and write a 3-page paper on a Tony-award winning production of your choosing. The play or musical had to have won Best Play or Best Musical for that year. Discuss in your paper the other nominated productions for Best Play (or Best Musical) that year, and the cultural and historical significance of the winning production. What was happening socially and politically that made this play or musical significant? Who were the theatre artists who brought this production to fruition (producers, director, playwright/composer and lyricists, designers, and actors). Use MLA style for the paper and citations page.
  - 6) **Final Paper:** Write a 3-page reflection paper detailing your experience in NYC. Prompts will be provided by the instructor. Due in May.

## **RULES & CODES OF CONDUCT:**

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Attend class.

Hand your work in on time and come to class prepared.

Plagiarizing, cheating, or any other dishonest behavior in the classroom will not be tolerated. Rules and regulations regarding plagiarism, dishonesty, and other issues concerning classroom participation can be found in University Rules and Regulations and Student Handbook. This course will abide by these established policies. A student found to be engaging in these activities, will be penalized to the full extent of Sul Ross State University policy.

Please do not use cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices for anything other than course work during class times.

Always be respectful and courteous to instructor and your classmates.

## **COURSE EVALUATION**

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Assignments are valued as follows:

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| 1) Quizzes (3)          | 15% |
| 2) Team Presentation #1 | 15% |
| 3) Research Paper       | 20% |

4) Class Discussions	15%
5) Team Presentation #2 (midterm)	20%
6) Final Reflection Paper	15%

### **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. Work is of better-than-expected quality, but not quite professional. High level of scholarship.

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

D = Below Average. Less than proficient with material. 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.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attendance is **mandatory**. If you must miss a class for a school-related activity, the absence must be discussed (and arrangements made regarding coursework) **prior to the absence**. If you must miss a class for an emergency or illness, please contact me **by email or phone as soon as possible**. After **6 unexcused absences** you will be asked to withdraw from the course, or you'll be dropped with a grade of "F" as per Sul Ross State University policy.

Arriving to class **on time** is also essential – **arriving late two times will be counted as one absence. Leaving before class ends will result in you being marked absent. In the film industry "on time" is early.**

### **Alpine Disability Statement**

SRSU Disability Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Alpine students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartze Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203, or email [mschwartze@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartze@sulross.edu) Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall – room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

### **Libraries**

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and Archives of the Big Bend in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, [library.sulross.edu](http://library.sulross.edu). Off-campus

access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email ([srsulibrary@sulross.edu](mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu)), or phone (432-837-8123).

Additional information for students at Rio Grande College:

The Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) Libraries at Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass offer additional access to library spaces and resources. Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde students may additionally use online resources available through SWTJC website, [library.swtjc.edu](http://library.swtjc.edu). The SWTJC Libraries serve as pick-up locations for InterLibrary Loan (ILL) from the Alpine campus.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden.

### **Classroom Climate of Respect**

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another because of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Let us not be silenced by the challenge of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive topics.

## COURSE CALENDAR

*Dates and class topics are subject to change at the instructor's discretion*

Day	Date	Topics and Assignments
Wed	Jan 15	Review Syllabus. Discuss course expectations and trip to NYC.
Mon	Jan 20	<b>NO CLASS MEETING – MLK, Jr.’s birthday observed.</b>
Wed	Jan 22	The Island of Manhattan. Discuss NYC flights and accommodations and cost of/funding for the trip.
Mon	Jan 27	The History of Broadway!
Wed	Jan 29	The History of Broadway! (continued)
Mon	Feb 3	Broadway in 2025!
Wed	Feb 5	Off-Broadway and off-off Broadway!
Mon	Feb 10	<b>Quiz #1: Manhattan and Broadway/Off-Broadway/Off-off Broadway!</b>
Wed	Feb 12	Discuss NYC itinerary and art museums.
Mon	Feb 17	American Musical Theatre
Wed	Feb 19	American Musical Theatre (continued)
Mon	Feb 24	American Musical Theatre (continued)
Wed	Feb 26	<b>Team Presentation #1: Art Museums in NYC</b>
Mon	Mar 3	Actor’s Equity Association
Wed	Mar 5	Actor’s Equity Association
Mon	Mar 10	<b>Quiz #2: American Musical Theatre and AEA</b>
Wed	Mar 12	The Tony Awards. Discuss NYC trip itinerary (restaurants, etc.)
Mon	Mar 17	<b>SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS MEETING</b>
Wed	Mar 19	<b>SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS MEETING</b>
Mon	Mar 24	The Tony Awards. Review NYC itinerary.

Wed Mar 26 **Team Presentation #2 in class (Midterm Project)**

Mon Mar 31 Central Park/Shakespeare in the Park (The Public Theatre)

Wed Apr 2 Viewing

Mon Apr 7 Viewing (continued)

Wed Apr 9 **Research paper due on the Tony Awards.**

Mon Apr 14 The NY Metro and other ground transportation

Wed Apr 16 Travel and Theatre Etiquette. Review final itinerary.

Mon Apr 21 NYC Trip

Wed Apr 23 NYC Trip

Mon Apr 28 **NO CLASS MEETING.**

Wed Apr 30 Last class meeting.

Tues May 6 **Final “Exam” 10:15 am – 12:15 pm.** Reflection papers due.