

# WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE

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FA 102 MWTh 12:30 – 3:30 T 3 – 4

## Fall Semester 2013

### Music in American Culture – the American Musical Theater

Music 136 (3 units, UC: CSU) Section 1548 Tuesday & Thursday @ 11-12:25

#### Syllabus

##### Week

- 1 *Musical Theater beginnings in America*  
American Ballad Opera
- 2 *Burlesque and Extravaganzas*  
The development of burlesque productions, differentiated from the later productions labeled "burlesque," which lead to the Extravaganzas of the late 1800's.
- 3 *Developments*  
Operetta  
A review of musical productions, commonly called "operettas"
- 4 *Early Broadway to the Roaring Twenties*  
leading to modern-story productions of the early Broadway shows – including identification of developments from Extravaganzas, called The Follies.
- 5 *The Great Depression – music of the 30's*  
Big productions such as Kern's work
- 6-8 *The Golden Age – 40's 50's and 60's*  
Comparison of productions of the great composers of American Theater, including Gershwin, Lowe, and Rogers.
- 9 *Social Themes*  
Treatment of miscegenation and women's issues
- 10-12 *Recent Era- 70's 80's and 90's*  
Influences on Broadway from abroad
- 13 *Current Productions*  
Continuing and scheduled productions on Broadway
- 14 *Modern American Opera*  
Recognition of the position of truly American operatic productions from composers such as Leonard Bernstein and John Adams, compared to those shows produced on the Broadway stage which have blurred the distinction between the popular and classical stage productions – reuniting all musical theater productions into one as it was at the beginning of the genre.
- 15 *Summary and Review*
- 16 *FINAL*

**Student Learning Outcome for this course.**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to distinguish and appraise the succeeding areas of development in the American Musical Theater productions from Colonial America's first, staged production, to the shows that are planned for this coming year 2009-2010.

**Divisional Student Learning Outcomes:**

Discover inspiration: its relevance and value

**WLAC Student Learning Outcomes:**

**Critical Thinking:** Analyze problems by differentiating fact from opinions, using evidence, and using sound reasoning to specify multiple solutions and their consequences.

**Quantitative Reasoning:** Identify, analyze, and solve problems that are quantitative in nature.

**Cultural Diversity:** Respectfully engage with other cultures in an effort to understand them.

**Ethics:** Practice and demonstrate standards of personal and professional integrity, honesty and fairness; apply ethical principles in submission of all college work.

**Aesthetics:** Use multiple modes of inquiry and approaches to experience and to engage with the arts and nature; develop and express personal creative visions throughout all aspects of one's life.

**Exams and Grading:**

Essay/homework on topic under discussion for that week	= 50 points
Mid Semester Exam	20 points
Final Exam	30 points

Extra credit (such as attending a live performance) shall not alter grade more than one level

**Attendance:** Regular and prompt participation is expected and required and shall be considered in calculating the grades. The Schedule of classes states, "The student is expected to attend every meeting of all classes for which he or she is registered. Violation of this regulation MAY result in exclusion from class."

**College Regulations:** All the WLAC Standards of Student Conduct including plagiarism, as written in the WLAC Schedule of Classes shall be enforced.