

FILM-125: FILM MUSICALS

Justification for this inactivation request

Course has not been offered in over three years.

Effective Term

Fall 2026

CC Approval

10/03/2025

AS Approval

10/09/2025

BOT Approval

10/16/2025

COCI Approval

02/23/2026

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Film Studies (Master's Degree)	

Subject Code

FILM - Film Studies

Course Number

125

Department

Film Studies

Division

Arts and Humanities (ARAH)

Full Course Title

Film Musicals

Short Title

Film Musicals

CB03 TOP Code

1007.00 - Dramatic Arts

CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code

E - Non-Occupational

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course Description

This course covers the historical, social, and artistic development of the film musical from the 1920s to the present.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment**Open Entry/Open Exit**

No

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Grading Options

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

Allow Audit

Yes

Requisites**SECTION D - Course Standards****Is this course variable unit?**

No

Units

3.00

Lecture Hours

54.00

Outside of Class Hours

108

Total Contact Hours

54

Total Student Hours

162

Distance Education Approval**Is this course offered through Distance Education?**

Yes

Online Delivery Methods

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Entirely Online	Permanent
Hybrid	Permanent

SECTION E - Course Content**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Critically analyze the components of film production from major historical periods and genres.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of film terminology.
2. Identify major film musicals.
3. Recognize plot, story conventions, and visual design of film musicals.
4. Demonstrate the ability to critically understand and analyze film musicals.

5. Demonstrate the ability to apply established critical film theory (auteur, feminist, historical, etc.) to film musicals.
6. Understand the production of film musicals in historical and sociological context.

Course Content

1. Introduction to film studies, emphasizing the specific application of techniques, terminology and methodologies in musicals on film, including:
 - a. Terminology and Film Techniques
 - i. close-up
 - ii. continuity editing
 - iii. cross-cutting
 - iv. establishing shot
 - v. fade-out
 - vi. long take
 - vii. sound bridge
 - viii. wide angle
2. Methodology
 - a. auteur
 - b. feminist
 - c. historical
3. Stylistic elements and components for musical films
 - a. Lighting
 - b. Composition and visual framing
 - c. Audio Design
 - d. Music
 - e. Plot and story
 - f. Acting
 - g. Evolution and mutation over time
4. Historical development and thematic interpretation of musical films
 - a. Golden Age of film musicals
 - i. The first musicals
 - ii. Busby Berkeley
 - iii. Musical stars
 - iv. The Freed Unit
 - b. Musicals of the 1950s
 - c. Musical films today

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Activity	Students choose a classic musical and pitch a modern adaptation, including casting, setting, and directorial vision. Students then vote on which film should be produced.
Discussion	Watch clips from both the stage and film versions of a musical (Les Misérables, West Side Story, Chicago). Discuss the differences in storytelling, performance style, and cinematic techniques.
Lecture	Students watch a lecture on the introduction of Film Musicals and then share their first experience with a film musical, theater musical or concert.
Other	

Online Adaptation

Types	Examples of learning activities
Activity	Students choose a classic musical and record themselves pitching a modern adaptation, including casting, setting, and directorial vision. Students in the class then vote on the musical they want to see produced through a discussion board.
Directed Study	Create an analysis of a particular scene from a musical. Deliver the analysis via video or in essay form.

Discussion	Watch clips from both the stage and film versions of a musical (Les Misérables, West Side Story, Chicago). Discuss the differences in storytelling, performance style, and cinematic techniques in a discussion forum.
Group Work	Assign different musicals to each group (e.g., West Side Story, Chicago, Moulin Rouge!). Each group watches a specific scene and discusses: How the song advances the story. The use of cinematography and editing. Cultural or historical relevance. Groups present findings via a shared Google Doc, discussion board, or short video.
Individualized Instruction	Provide personalized guidance on a film of a student's choosing. Student analyzes the film according to agreed upon prompt.
Journal	Students keep a journal of what they saw and heard when watching musicals and how it made them think and feel.
Lecture	Students watch a lecture on the introduction of Film Musicals and then share their first experience with a film musical, theater musical or concert via discussion board

Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

Announcements/Bulletin Boards
Chat Rooms
Discussion Boards
E-mail Communication
Telephone Conversations
Video or Teleconferencing

Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

Chat Rooms
Discussions
Group Work

Course design is accessible

Yes

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Quizzes	Quiz after each unit of study. Quizzes may include both objective and essay style questions.
Exams/Tests	Midterms and finals may include both objective and essay style questions. For example: Final Exam Essay: Choose one film this semester. Identify the choices made about plot structure, design, lighting, cinematography, editing, acting, sound, and other intentional artistic components the finished film product that identifies it as a musical. Essay will be evaluated on identification and discussion of the formal elements, discussion of apparent and symbolic content, and development and historical content. Thoroughness and competence of writing will also count towards final grade.
Essays/Papers	Research paper or other writing projects that develop a related topic.
Class Participation	Participation in class discussions.

Assignments

Reading Assignments

Selected readings from textbook, periodicals or library collection covering and expanding on lecture.
Read Chapter 4, discussing the making of the American Musical on film.
Read Chapter 5, covering the problem of genre history and musicals.

Writing Assignments

1. Written evaluations of films viewed in class.

For example:

Write a three-page, typewritten analysis of the Freed Unit during the 1940s and 1950s. Pick one film from the Freed Unit and write a portion of this essay outlining its historical context, the artistic team who made the film, and why it is considered to be a part of the golden age of the film musical.

2. Topical essays expanding on course material.

For example:

Write a three-page essay discussing comparing adaptations of Oklahoma and the Sound of Music.

Outside-of-Class Assignments

Research paper or other writing project that develop a related topic.

For example:

Students are to select a paper topic covering a critical analysis and evaluation of the artistic elements of a musical covered in the course this semester. This paper is designed as a research project and students are expected to go beyond the level of information found in the course textbook. Students must find a minimum of five sources for this paper. Of those five, no more than two may be periodical sources and no internet sources are allowed, except where students can demonstrate the academic verifiability and validity of a source. Paper will be in the MLA format using parenthetical citations. The body of the text must be a minimum of 7 pages and no more than 15. Work will be graded on a 50 point rubric that evaluates format; development of the body of the text including a thesis, relevant examples, integration of research, conclusion and merit of original premise; punctuation; grammar; bibliography; citations; and use of images.

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials**Material Type**

Textbook

Author

Jeanine Basinger

Title

The Movie Musical!

Publisher

Alfred Knoff

Year

2019

Material Type

Textbook

Author

DK and Elaine Paige

Title

Musicals

Edition/Version

Second Edition

Publisher

DK

Year

2021

Rationale

Updated textbook that chronicles the history of musicals

ISBN #

0744027411

SECTION G - Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity

Course Codes (Admin Only)

CB00 State ID

CCC000553513

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status

Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status

Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass

Yes

Only Pass/No Pass

No