

SYLLABUS & SCHEDULE

Spring 2018

Monday, January 8 through Monday, April 23.

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Jim Brown
Office	Theatre - Office 222
Office Hours	Available by Appointment
Phone	407-823-2862
E-mail	james.brown@ucf.edu

"CLICK" - VIDEO INTRODUCTION by JIM BROWN

Course Information

Course Name	Sex, Drugs, and Rock & Roll Musicals
Course ID & Section	THE 3250 / Section OW61
Credit Hours	3.0
Semester/Year	Spring 2018
Location	Online

Course Description

Sex, Drugs and Rock & Roll Musicals is an in-depth survey of this most unique genre of Musical Theatre. Emphasis will be placed on understanding of structure, content, music form, and style. Analysis of content, and conveying how it relates to the individual, their peers (family and friends), their generation, our society, and to the global community will also be emphasized. Students are expected to listen to the entire Original Broadway Cast Recording, and be familiar with original production information, including but not limited to creative team, production team, dates of original and revival productions, and related facts. Students are required to be aware of current events so they can relate issues and themes of the musicals to happenings in the world around them.

Course Objectives

- To *familiarize* you with the musical theatre art form.
- To *open* your mind and heart to the world of the Rock Musical.
- To *respond* to how these works affect you and our world in thought, emotion, and/or action.

Required Listening

- *Hair*
- *Rent*

- *Spring Awakening*
- *In The Heights*

IMPORTANT NOTE: PLEASE SECURE ACCESS TO EACH ORIGINAL BROADWAY CAST RECORDING (OBCR) IMMEDIATELY: There are a variety of ways you can listen to each of the Original Broadway Cast (OBC) Recordings; I suggest using **Spotify, YouTube, iTunes, Pandora**, or another free or reasonably priced streaming or download service easily located online. Some recordings may be available for free listening, but are subject to limited availability and commercial advertising during listening. Hard copies of CD's are also available through traditional purchasing retail locations. Some CD's can be found at the UCF Library or a local library near you for check out or listening onsite. **Again, please do everything you can to secure and begin listening to these recordings NOW.**

Course Requirements and Instructions

1. **FAMILIARIZE** yourself with the **HOME PAGE**.

- Locate the **MODULE** for each Musical on the Home Page.
- Locate the **BACKGROUND** Notes for each Musical.
- Locate the **ASSIGNMENT** for each Musical.

2. **READ** the **BACKGROUND** Notes for each Musical which can be found in its **MODULE**.

NOTE: Answers to some of the Questions in your Assignments are found in these BACKGROUND Notes.

3. **LISTEN** to the corresponding **MUSICAL** for each Module & Assignment.

4. **RESEARCH & READ** a **SYNOPSIS** for each Musical.

5. **RESEARCH** an appropriate **NEWSPAPER ARTICLE** from **WITHIN 3 MONTHS** of the Assignment that captures the essence of the Issue or Theme you choose to discuss in each assignment response.

4. **RESPOND** to the Questions in each **ASSIGNMENT** by *connecting* to the Story, Characters, Themes and Issues of each Musical.

5. **SUBMIT** the **ASSIGNMENT** for each Musical by the **DUE DATE & TIME** as specified in the **SCHEDULE** below.

ASSIGNMENT & GRADING POLICIES

IMPORTANT: Includes CLASS ATTENDANCE VERIFICATION info.

- Each Assignment has a **Date & Time when it OPENS** and a **Date & Time when it CLOSES** as specified in the SCHEDULE below. The Assignment is **ONLY** available during that window of time. **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED. No Exceptions will be made beyond the specified Due Date & Time.**
- Each and every assignment is **DUE BY the DATE & TIME** specified on the Syllabus Schedule. **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED. No Exceptions will be made.**

- **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** after each specified Due Date & Time. No Exceptions will be made.
- Most Assignments will be **DUE on MONDAYS before 5:59am** with the **EXCEPTION** of our **FIRST ASSIGNMENT.** The First Assignment will be **DUE BEFORE 11:59 PM on the FIRST FRIDAY of classes.** This First Assignment is to fulfill your **ATTENDANCE VERIFICATION** for this Online Class. (See SCHEDULE below for specific details.)
- **ONLINE CLASS ATTENDANCE VERIFICATION: IMPORTANT... You are REQUIRED to verify your Online Class Attendance by completing Assignment MODULE A by the END OF THE FIRST FRIDAY OF CLASSES.** (Please see Schedule below for specific details regarding Due Date and Time.)
- **YOUR ATTENDANCE VERIFICATION ASSIGNMENT IS DUE BEFORE 11:59PM ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF CLASS.**
- **I do not offer 'Extra Credit' for this class.**
- **NOTE:** There will be **NO Final Exam for this class.** The completion of your last Assignment will complete the course for the Semester.

SCHEDULE

WEEK	<u>AVAILABLE</u> DAY - DATE - TIME	MUSICAL	ASSIGNMENT	
1	Monday, January 8 at 12:01am	<u>INTRODUCTION</u> Attendance Verification	Module A	Friday
1	Monday, January 8 at 12:01am	HAIR	Module 1	Monday
4	Monday, January 29 at 6:01am	RENT	Module 4	Monday
8	Monday, February 26 at 6:01am	SPRING AWAKENING	Module 5	Monday
12	Monday, March 26 at 6:01am	IN THE HEIGHTS	Module 6	Monday *

Evaluation and Grading

Assignment	Points = Percentage of Grade
Introduction	100 Points = 20% of Grade
Hair	100 Points = 20% of Grade
Rent	100 Points = 20% of Grade
Spring Awakening	100 Points = 20% of Grade
In the Heights	100 Points = 20% of Grade
Total	500 Points = 100% of Grade

Grading Scale: Plus and Minus Scale (+ / -) will be used.

A	100%	to 94%
A-	< 94%	to 90%
B+	< 90%	to 87%
B	< 87%	to 84%
B-	< 84%	to 80%
C+	< 80%	to 77%
C	< 77%	to 74%
C-	< 74%	to 70%
D	< 70%	to 60%
F	< 60%	to 0%

ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS & WRITING REQUIREMENTS

ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

NOTE: Show Responses must be COMPLETED. Any response that is not fully completed will receive a 0 for that assignment. NO PARTIAL ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED. NO EXCEPTIONS.

1. LISTEN to the ENTIRE Original Broadway Cast Recording of each musical.

You will be required to provide the NAME of the RESOURCE you utilized to listen to the entire Original Broadway Cast Recording of each musical. For example: Spotify, Youtube, Audio CD, etc.

2. RESEARCH & READ a Synopsis of each Musical, its Story, and its Characters.

You will be required to RESEARCH a SYNOPSIS of each musical on your own, and provide the NAME of the RESOURCE you utilized to READ that Synopsis. For example: Official Show Website, Wikipedia, etc.

3. RESEARCH and DETERMINE the following information:

WHO is the COMPOSER of (Show)?

WHO is the LYRICIST of (Show)?

WHO wrote the BOOK of (Show)?

WHAT was the YEAR of the ORIGINAL (Not Revival) Broadway Opening of (Show)?

NOTE: This information can be easily found under the '**BACKGROUND**' Notes under each Show Module.

4. DETERMINE the ISSUES and THEMES that are related to the story of each musical.

And then...

CHOOSE 3 ISSUES or THEMES that you believe to be the most significant to each musical.

5. CHOOSE the ISSUE or THEME you CONNECTED with DEEPLY from the musical and would like to use as the subject of your response.

NOTE: This Issue or Theme should be one that is VITAL to the characters in the story of the musical; an Issue or Theme that IMPACTED YOU on a deeply personal level, and that you find to be an issue that intensely affects the world around you.

6. RESEARCH a CURRENT EVENT or CURRENT PHENOMENON that demonstrate a SPECIFIC EXAMPLE of HOW and WHERE we are seeing this Issue or Theme playing out in our human experience today, now, at this very moment.

The Issues and Themes from these musicals continue to be vitally relevant in the way they impact our lives today. Although they may be somewhat different from the way they appear in each musical, the essence of these issues continue to be intensely evident in our personal lives, our American society, and our Global community. Many of these Issues and Themes are nothing less than explosive in the Current Events and Current Phenomenon of our daily lives, particularly those reflected in the current political happenings here in the United States, as well as around the globe. It is your responsibility to reflect the SPECIFIC DETAILS from these CURRENT EVENTS and PHENOMENON including (but not limited to) the NAMES of key players, DATES of particular events, LOCATIONS of specific events or the regions or countries where we see these phenomena taking place, and the SPECIFIC DETAILS as to the HOW and the WHY of these events, and why they are so impactful on our lives today. .

7. SELECT a NEWSPAPER ARTICLE published within the LAST 3 MONTHS that captures this CURRENT EVENT, series of CURRENT EVENTS, or CURRENT PHENOMENON as it relates to the central Issue or Theme that you chose to relate to from the musical.

NOTE: Your Newspaper Article MUST be published within the LAST 3 MONTHS. If your Newspaper Article was not published within the LAST 3 MONTHS you will receive a 0 on this assignment.

NOTE: Your Newspaper Article must be from a reputable, predominantly established Newspaper of a National, Regional, or State level. University Newspapers may be cited as a reference, particularly when addressing your peers and generation, but may not be used instead of a Newspaper with a national perspective as your primary source.

Newspapers for your Articles may include but are not limited to...

NATIONAL

REGIONAL

FLORIDA

The New York Times

The Chicago Tribune

The Orlando Sentinel

The Washington Post

The Los Angeles Times

The Miami Herald

The Wall Street Journal

The Boston Globe

Huffington Post

USA Today

NOTE: You may NOT use a 'Statistical Study' instead of a Newspaper Article. Your Newspaper Article may include statistics, but you may not use a Statistical Study instead of a Newspaper Article. If you use a Statistical Study as the basis of your response, you will receive a 0 for this assignment.

NOTE: You may NOT use a video as the basis of your response. Your Newspaper Article may *include* a video, but a video may not be used instead of a Newspaper Article. If you use a video as the basis of your response you will receive a 0 for this assignment.

NOTE: You may NOT use a blog as the basis of your response. If you use a blog as the basis of your response, you will receive a 0 for this assignment.

You will be required to provide the following information about the Newspaper article you have selected:

1. **Title of Article:**
2. **Date:**
3. **Newspaper:**
4. **Author:**
5. **Link:**

ESSAYS

8. SHORT ESSAY: (250 Words) HOW the Newspaper Article from the last 3 months SPECIFICALLY relates to the STORY and its CHARACTERS of each show.

NOTE: You must SPECIFICALLY discuss the Newspaper Article you have chosen for each show as it relates to your chosen Issue or Theme from each show. If you fail to SPECIFICALLY discuss the article you have chosen for each show as it relates to your chosen Issue or Theme from each show, you will receive a 0 on that assignment

9. SHORT ESSAY: (250 Words) WHAT SONG from (SHOW) most strongly involves the Issue or Theme you have chosen to discuss? Tell me about the Character (or Characters) that sing the song, and what SPECIFIC situation they are experiencing during the song that makes the Issue or Theme so SPECIFICALLY vital to their lives.

10. ESSAY: (500 Words) HOW the Newspaper Article of the Current Event or Current Phenomenon SPECIFICALLY relates to ALL of the following...

This should be more in-depth essay with SPECIFIC DETAILS relating your Newspaper Article to EACH and EVERY ONE of the following aspects:

1. **YOU**
2. **YOUR PEERS (Friends and Family)**
3. **YOUR GENERATION**
4. **OUR SOCIETY (America)**
5. **OUR WORLD**

NOTE: You must discuss HOW each Newspaper Article you choose for each show SPECIFICALLY RELATES to You, and Your Peers, and Your Generation, and Our Society, and to Our World. You MUST be SPECIFIC in your connections. Discussing things in general terms will not fulfill the requirements of the assignment. If you fail to SPECIFICALLY discuss the article as it relates to EACH and EVERY ONE of these aspects, you will receive a 0 on this assignment.

WRITING REQUIREMENTS

1. Each Musical MODULE of Sex, Drugs, and the Rock & Roll Musicals will include an ASSIGNMENT. Each ASSIGNMENT will consist of a QUESTIONNAIRE which you are required to COMPLETE after you have LISTENED to the Original Broadway Cast Recording, and RESEARCHED and READ a Synopsis of each Musical. Each Assignment MUST be completed and submitted to me by the DUE DAY, DATE, and TIME specified on the SYLLABUS SCHEDULE. There can be no exceptions to this requirement.

REMEMBER: You MUST complete AND submit each Assignment by the DUE DATE & TIME or it will be regarded as 'MISSED' and you will receive a 0. THERE WILL BE NO OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE UP MISSED ASSIGNMENTS. NO EXCEPTIONS.

2. Each ASSIGNMENT will Require you to RESEARCH and RELATE a NEWSPAPER ARTICLE that was published WITHIN 3 MONTHS OF THE DATE YOUR ASSIGNMENT OPENS. If you fail to include an article, as instructed, that was published within 3 months of the date of the assignment, you will receive a 0 on that assignment.

3. PROOF-READ your papers! I'm not overly picky about grammar, but *I do* expect to be able to make sense of your thoughts in your papers. Each sentence needs to contain a clear and complete thought, which contributes to the overall thoughts of each paragraph. Also, please check your spelling. Nothing diminishes a paper filled with inspiring thoughts more than bad spelling.

4. BE SPECIFIC. Many of you have great thoughts and speak about them passionately, but they are *too general*. Give SPECIFIC examples of current ISSUES and EVENTS and HOW and WHY they affect YOU, YOUR PEERS (Friends & Family) YOUR GENERATION, our American SOCIETY, and our WORLD. ALL OF THESE.

5. LET'S LOOK AT #3 AGAIN! Be sure to answer HOW and WHY these issues affect YOU, YOUR PEERS (Friends and Family), YOUR GENERATION, our American SOCIETY, and our WORLD. *Each and Every one of these.* Make the ISSUES *personal* to YOUR LIFE, your PEERS (Friends & Family), your GENERATION, and also to our American SOCIETY and to our WORLD around you. **I want to know how these issues AFFECT you and NOT how they don't.**

6. FIND a NEWS SOURCE that you can **read daily** and refer to for **current events** as we learn and relate to the THEMES and ISSUES in the Stories of the Musicals. You can use any **OBJECTIVE** News Source; it can be online or a traditional Newspaper. Please try to stay away from heavy 'opinion' oriented sources; I want you to learn from facts and not opinions. I want to hear **YOUR** views and beliefs instead of someone else's.

7. LOOK at an ISSUE from *Different Perspectives*: How is an Issue **SIMILAR** in your life in *comparison* to the Story and Characters in each Musical? How is it **DIFFERENT** in *contrast* to the Story and Characters in each Musical? Tell me "how far we have come" on an issue... and also "how far we still have to go" on that same issue.

8. LOOK beyond the superficial! A key element of Theatre is the *empathy* that is created between the Audience (YOU) and the Characters in the Story. Even if you are a *different* gender, race, age, religion, political party, sexual orientation, or economic background, you must *connect* with what you have in *common* with that character's *humanity* rather than what is merely on the surface. To answer... "*I really didn't have anything in common with any of these characters*"... means you didn't work at it very hard, and you are missing the purpose of the class.

9. FULLY EXPLORE Each Issue you Address! I have to see you fulfill **each** of these points above for **each** topic, **each** theme, **each** issues that you address. **AND** you should be **informed** to relate to the background of the issues, and both current and previous events that have shaped the status of each of those issues. "How FAR have we come?... and How FAR do we have to go?"

10. PLEASE SEPARATE EACH PARAGRAPH of each section with a *space*! It makes it easier for me to read. Thank you.

GORDON RULE: Sex, Drugs, and Rock & Roll Musicals - THE 3250 - is a Gordon Rule Writing Course and successful completion fulfills the expectations of The University of Central Florida's definition of "College-Level Writing" as follows:

1. The writing will have a clearly defined central idea or thesis.
2. It will provide adequate support for that idea.
3. It will be organized clearly and logically.
4. It will show awareness of the conventions of standard written English.
5. It will be formatted or presented in an appropriate way.

LISTENING & LEARNING 'TIPS'...

The best way to listen and learn about each musical, its story, its characters, and the world they all live in, is to do 2 things...

1. LISTEN to the WHOLE Original Broadway Cast Recording ... the WHOLE thing ... EVERY song ... not just some songs.
2. Find a SYNOPSIS of each show (Wikipedia has really good ones). Open up the SYNOPSIS, and then READ about the 1st Song of the Musical... and then LISTEN to the 1st Song of the Musical... Then READ about the 2nd Song/Scene of the Musical... and then LISTEN to the 2nd Song/Scene of the Musical... continue to "toggle" back and forth between READING about each Song/Scene, and then LISTENING to that Song/Scene. This does take some time and patience, but it is really easy, and yes, its fun. Don't expect to get through the whole show in one sitting; I suggest working your way through all of ACT 1, and then work through ACT 2 a little bit later. Of course, you are free to familiarize yourself in any way that is comfortable for you.

REMEMBER...

- **Listen to each show *early*! *Don't wait to the last minute*!** You will need to know specific songs from each musical in your responses.
- **Find and commit to reading everyday an objective, fact based, news source.**
- ***Take your time when answering the questions!*** This class is not hard, ***but you have to invest yourself in it*** or you will *not* do well!
- **'Dig deeply'** when you respond to these musicals! 'Skimming' over them will not cut it. You have to realize that there are students in the class who *thoroughly* listen to the shows and *passionately* respond to them; so, compared to their papers, you have a pretty high bar to reach if you want to get an "A".

Have Fun Everyone ... Work Hard ... and **ROCK ON.**

Jim Brown