

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Division of Humanities

Course Syllabus – 2026 Fall

Course Title:	Music, Drama and Theater (HUMA2105)
No. of Credits:	3 credits
Prerequisites:	No prior experience/knowledge in singing, instrumental playing, dancing, acting, stage management, or directing is required.
Course Instructor:	Dr. Oliver Lo (盧思彥博士), Visiting Scholar, HKUST (2026 Fall) DMA & MM (Eastman); AdvDip (HKAPA); HigherDip (HKPolyU)
Email:	oliverlo@ust.hk
Office Hours:	TBC

Course Description:

This course will guide students in creating, producing, and performing their own musical theatre work. As musical theatre is a multi-art form, this course is suitable for students interested in language arts, music, theatre, dance, or visual arts. At the instructor's discretion, an in-class or public performance will be offered at the end of the semester. No prior knowledge or experience in the performing arts is required.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):

In successfully completing this course, the students will be able to

- 1) explain in their own words the basic theatrical terms and concepts
- 2) describe the development of the genre of Musical Theatre and understand the interrelationship between music, drama and theatre
- 3) analyze and critique the structure of scenes from a musical theatre work
- 4) create students' own musical theatre work to demonstrate basic vocal, acting and other theatrical skills
- 5) show proper teamwork attitude and skills to motivate other members, and to communicate orally applicable to presentation and argumentation

COURSE MATERIALS:

All course materials will be available on Canvas.

EXTRA REHEARSAL AND FEES:

Extra rehearsals (about 20-30 hours total) will be scheduled on weekends and weeknights. Your availability is crucial. Missing compulsory rehearsals or performances will affect your final project score. HK\$50 will be collected for production costs at the beginning of the semester (after the drop-add period).

An extra rehearsal and performance schedule will be provided on the first day of class.

ASSESSMENT:

Components	Percentage 100%	Learning Goals Assessed	Methodology
Exam	25%	1, 2, 3	Individual (MC questions and short essays)
Final Group Project / Performance	25%	All	Teacher assessment + peer evaluation
2 nd Group Project/Presentation	20%	All	Teacher assessment + Peer evaluation
1 st Group Project/Presentation	10%	1, 2, 5	Teacher assessment + Peer evaluation
Audition	10%	4	Individual (based on effort and progress; rather than talent)
Attendance of Lecture/Training Session	10%	All	Individual

1) Attendance will be taken 13 times randomly throughout the twelve weeks after the add-drop period. You may miss three Lectures/Training Sessions without penalty, but starting from your fourth absence, one percent will be deducted for each absence (10% maximum deduction).

2) The grading of projects will be based on the peer's evaluation, attendance of extra rehearsals, participation, leadership, and performance.

3) NO extra assignments will be offered to improve your grade

4) NO make-up exam will be offered.

TEACHING APPROACH:

Teaching and Learning Activities	Contents	Course Learning Outcomes Addressed
Lecture	5 to 6 lectures	1, 2, 3
Singing and Movement Session	Lessons in Singing, acting, and movement will be offered	1, 4
Rehearsals	Supervised rehearsals will be conducted; the instructor will provide assistance and recommendations when needed	All
Private Coaching	Private Coaching with the instructor will be arranged when needed	4
Audition	- The student will sing the assigned song in the prescribed key - The student will read the assigned monologue	4
Group Project 1	Story for our final musical - Try to persuade your classmate that your story will have the greatest potential to be successful - Try to connect your story with societal issues (like racial problems in Show Boat). 10-minute Presentation - It can be in any format (PowerPoint presentation, a skit, etc.); just be creative! - The class will vote for the two top stories right after the presentations.	1, 2, 5
Group Project 2	A 20-minute mini-performance with some basic staging, singing, and choreography - Develop your storyline into a book - Choose music, rewrite lyrics - Rehearsal, Rehearsal, Rehearsal!	All
Final Project	Open or in-class Performance of a 30-minute show	All

REFERENCE:

Berinstein, Dori. Show Business. 107 min. Liberation Entertainment, 2007. DVD (ML1711.8.N3 S56 2007)

Everett, William and Paul R. Laird, ed. The Cambridge companion to the musical, 2d ed. Cambridge University Press, 2008. (ML2054 .C35 2008)

Kantor, Michael. Broadway: the American musical. 171 min. each. Educational Broadcasting Corporation, 2004. 2 DVDs. (ML1711.8.N3 B76 2004)

Kern and Hammerstein. Show Boat. Warner Home Video, 2000. DVD (PN1997.A16 S54 1951a)

Rodgers and Hammerstein. Oklahoma!. 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment, 2005. DVD (PN1997.A16 O54 1955a)

Course AI Policy:

In this course, you may not use generative AI tools for any assessment tasks except grammar checking.

Academic Integrity:

Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST's Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Please refer to Academic Integrity | HKUST – Academic Registry for the University's definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.

Tentative Schedule:

Week	Content
1	Lecture
2	Lecture / Singing Training
3	Lecture / Singing Training / Group Meeting
4	Lecture / Singing Training / Group Meeting
5	Audition (Time and Location to be arranged) Lecture/Singing Training/Group Meeting Group Project 1 (Compulsory)
6	Movement / Acting / Stage Combat / Group Meeting
7	Movement / Acting / Stage Combat / Group Meeting and rehearsal
8	Movement / Acting / Stage Combat / Group Meeting and rehearsal
9	Supervised Group Rehearsals Group Project 2 (Compulsory)
10	Coaching/Rehearsals
11	Coaching/Rehearsals during class + Extra Rehearsals
12	Rehearsals during class + Extra Rehearsals
13	Dress Rehearsals & Performance (Compulsory)