

# FILM-125: FILM MUSICALS

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## Effective Term

Fall 2025

## CC Approval

03/07/2025

## AS Approval

03/13/2025

## BOT Approval

03/20/2025

## COCI Approval

05/22/2025

## 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 (FILM)

### 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

### Rationale

Updating title due to archival of FILM 125A/B/C courses.

## 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	

**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: Chose 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.

**Other 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

**Course Codes (Admin Only)****ASSIST Update**

No

**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