FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL
Undergraduate Programs

Department Theatre and Dance

College Arts and Letters

*(To obtain a course number, contact **erudolph@fau.edu**)*

UUPC Approval 1/26/26
UFS Approval
SCNS Submittal
Confirmed
Banner Posted
Catalog

Prefix TPP **Number** 1250	*(L = Lab Course; C = Combined Lecture/Lab; add if appropriate)* **Lab Code**	**Type of Course** Lecture	**Course Title** Music Fundamentals for Theatre Performance
Credits *(See Definition of a Credit Hour)* 3	**Grading** *(Select One Option)* **Regular** ◉ **Sat/UnSat** ○	**Course Description** *(Syllabus must be attached; see Template and Guidelines)* Introduction to fundamental musical concepts for musical theatre performers, choreographers, and stage managers in preparation for music rehearsals for musical theatre productions.	
Effective Date *(TERM & YEAR)* Fall 2026			

Prerequisites, with minimum grade*	**Corequisites**	**Registration Controls** *(Major, College, Level)*
Permission of the instructor based on proficiency entrance tests.	None	BFA Musical Theatre, BFA Design and Technology

Default minimum passing grade is D-.** **Prereqs., Coreqs. & Reg. Controls are enforced for all sections of course

WAC/Gordon Rule Course

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to proposal. See WAC Guidelines.

Intellectual Foundations Program (General Education) Requirement *(Select One Option)*

None

General Education criteria must be indicated in the syllabus and approval attached to the proposal. See Intellectual Foundations Guidelines.

Minimum qualifications to teach course

MM in Music or MFA in Theatre

Faculty Contact/Email/Phone

Ryan Townsend/rtownsend@fau.edu/4845744983

List/Attach comments from departments affected by new course

Approved by	***Date***
Department Chair Thomas M Smith	1-9-26
College Curriculum Chair Robin Larson	01/16/2026
College Dean	1/16/2026
UUPC Chair Korey Sorge	1/26/26
Undergraduate Studies Dean Dan Meeroff	1/26/26
UFS President	
Provost	

Email this form and syllabus to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.

TPP 1250
Music Fundamentals for Theatre Performance

3 credits

Fall 2025

Prof. Ryan Townsend
Office: Arts and Letter 185
Office hours: Monday @2:30, Tuesday @10am, Wednesday @1:30
Classroom: XXXX
Telephone: 484-574-4983
Email: rtownsend@fau.edu

Course Description
Introduction to fundamental musical concepts for musical theatre performers, choreographers, and stage managers in preparation for music rehearsals for musical theatre productions.

Instructional Method
This course is offered In-Person with no remote option for this course.

Prerequisites/Corequisites
Permission of the instructor based on proficiency entrance tests.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes
Students will be able to identify, define, and explain essential music concepts, elements, and terminology by successfully completing written exams. Students will be able to identify and produce accurate pitches at sight and identify intervals and simple melodies by ear. Students will be able to analyze the written score for musical theatre at a basic functional level

Course Evaluation Method
Class Participation (20%)
Students are expected to arrive on time to class and participate accordingly. See "**Attendance Policy**" for more details.
Exams – (25%)
At the end of each unit there will be a written exam that will cover all the materials learned in the course up to that point. This is a cumulative class. Understanding the information that is offered early in the semester will be vital for success in the course as the material builds upon itself. In addition to the written aspects of an exam, there is the opportunity to include practical elements into these evaluations per the instructor's desire.
Practical Quizzes – (10%)
Sight-singing, dictation, and all other physical aspects of this course may be evaluated by giving a practical quiz at any point during the semester.
Homework Assignments – (25%)
Written homework may be assigned on any given class period to further explore the concepts lectured in class.
The Final – (20%)

Notes

PLEASE READ: Since Theatre requires the use of mind, voice, and body, there might be situations that require a certain amount of physical contact between you and the Instructor and other students. If this presents a problem for you, please see the Instructor immediately to assess your chances for success in this course.

Course Grading Scale

• A	(100-94)	Excellent work, consistently dynamic
• A-	(93-90)	
• B+	(89-87)	
• B	(86-84)	Good work, but not consistently dynamic
• B-	(83-80)	
• C+	(79-77)	
• C	(76-74)	Average work, meeting minimum requirements
• *C-	(73-70)	Results in departmental probation
• *D	(69-60)	Results in departmental probation
• *F	(<60)	Results in departmental probation

*(& Below)

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absences. Each unexcused absence will lower your participation grade by 10 points. Each tardy or lack of positive contribution may lower your participation grade by 5 points.

Policy on Makeup Tests, Late Work, and Incompletes (if applicable)

Two unexcused absences will result in an automatic "F" in any course meeting once per week. Each subsequent absence will lower your final grade by one letter grade. Five absences will result in automatic failure. Three tardies equals one absence. If you arrive to class after roll is taken, it is your responsibility to check in at the end of class to make sure your attendance is recorded. See University policies in the FAU Student Handbook http://www.fau.edu/handbook/

Students will not be penalized for absences due to participation in University-approved activities, but proof of involvement must be provided. Reasonable accommodation will be made for student absences due to religious observance(s). Also, note that grades of Incomplete ("I") are reserved only for students who are passing the course but have not completed all the required work because

of exceptional circumstances. Incompletes should be pre-arranged with the instructor before the end of the term.

Special Course Requirements

Be Prepared: Failure to present your songs on the days they are due will result in a grade of zero. Written work will be penalized at the rate of 10% for every day it is late and can be turned in no later than a week after its assigned due date. Any alterations to this policy will only be considered in an extreme emergency, on a case-by-case basis, and may require further written documentation.

Social Media- Students are not allowed to post images/video/audio of class/lesson activities without permission from those featured in the media (student or instructor). Any discovery of this material without the subjects' permission will result in automatic failure of this course and probation from the Musical Theatre program.

Classroom Etiquette Policy

Cell phones are to be away and turned on silent during class. A large portion of this class is performance based. It is rude and disrespectful to be on your cell phone while another student is performing. Video and audio recording of classes is NOT PERMITTED. However, a student may request to have their individual performance audio or video recorded. This is at the discretion of the student and may only be used for their own practice. The video should not be shared with others or placed on social media.

Laptops will not be used to take notes in this class. If you should decide to take notes in the class, please use a notebook and pencil. If you are using a tablet to read sheet music, then you should only have that out during the coaching, not before or after.

Policy on the Recording of Lectures

Students enrolled in this course may record video or audio of class lectures for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach students about a particular subject. Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to student presentations (whether individually or as part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), labs, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, and private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the lecturer, is prohibited. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation or class attendance and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the University's Student Code of Conduct and/or the Code of Academic Integrity.

Artificial Intelligence Preamble

FAU recognizes the value of generative AI in facilitating learning. However, output generated by artificial intelligence (AI), such as written words, computations, code, artwork, images, music, etc., for example, is drawn from previously published materials and is not your own original work. FAU students are not permitted to use AI for any course work unless explicitly allowed to do so by the instructor of the class for a specific assignment. [Policy 12.16 Artificial Intelligence]
Class policies related to AI use are decided by the individual faculty. Some faculty may permit the use of AI in some assignments but not others, and some faculty may prohibit the use of AI in their course entirely. In the case that an instructor permits the use of AI for some assignments, the assignment instructions will indicate when and how the use of AI is permitted in that specific assignment. It is the student's responsibility to comply with the instructor's expectations for each assignment in each course. When AI is authorized, the student is also responsible and accountable for the content of the work. AI may generate inaccurate, false, or exaggerated information. Users should approach any generated content with skepticism and review any information generated by AI before using generated content as-is.

If you are unclear about whether or not the use of AI is permitted, ask your instructor before starting the assignment.

Failure to comply with the requirements related to the use of AI may constitute a violation of the Florida Atlantic Code of Academic Integrity, Regulation 4.001.

Proper Citation: If the use of AI is permitted for a specific assignment, then use of the AI tool must be properly documented and cited. For more information on how to properly cite the use of AI tools, visit https://fau.edu/ai/citation

AI Prohibited: The use of AI to assist in any work assigned in this specific course is prohibited.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to http://www.fau.edu/counseling/

Disability Policy

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

Code of Academic Integrity

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001.

Required Texts/Readings

- Scores and Music as Assigned
- 3 Ring Binder (with copies of assigned music), Duplicate copies for accompanist and instructor due week following assignment of piece
- Voice Recorder (Can be a digital voice recorder, computer, cell phone, etc.)

Course Topical Outline

	Scheduled Activity	Assignments Due
Week 1: Aug 18th – 22nd	Tuesday: Intro to Staff and Notes; Basic Terminology	
	Thursday: Review notes and terms. Intro to Solfege and Conducting	**Homework #2a Due**
Week 2: Aug 25th – 29th	Tuesday: Half Steps, Enharmonics, Frequency	**16 Bars of Audition Song Due**
		Homework #4 Due
	Thursday: Introduction to Rhythm	
Week 3: Sept. 1st – 5th	Tuesday: Major Scales	**Homework #10 Due**
	Thursday: Test Review/Rhythmic Dictation **Practical Quiz – Conducting**	**Homework #6 Due**
Week 4: Sept. 8th – 12th	Tuesday: **TEST 1: Tetrachords, Major Scale**	
	Thursday: Circle of Fifths and Key Signatures	
Week 5: Sept. 15th – 19th	Tuesday: Identifying Key Signatures	**Homework #8: Key Signatures Due**
	Thursday: Review Key Signatures	

		Homework #9: Major Key Signatures Due
Week 6: Sept. 22nd – 26th	Tuesday: Test Review **Practical Quiz – Sight Singing 1** Thursday: **TEST 2: Key Signatures and Rhythmic Dictation**	**Homework #11: Major Key Signatures Due**
Week 7: Sept. 29th – Oct. 3rd	Tuesday: Natural Minor Scales Parallel vs Relative Thursday: Major/Minor Key Signatures	**Homework #12: Major and Natural Minor Scales**
Week 8: Oct. 6th – 10th	Tuesday: Dotted Rhythms and Compound Meter Thursday: Harmonic and Melodic Minor Scales	**Homework #15: Major and Minor Key Signatures Due**
Week 9: Oct. 13th – 17th	Tuesday: Review Minor Scales/Key Signatures **Practical Quiz – Sight Singing 2** Thursday: **TEST 3: Minor Scales and Key Signatures, Rhythmic Dictation**	**Homework #16 Due**
Week 10: Oct. 20th – 24th	Tuesday: Perfect/Major Intervals and Minor Thursday: Diminished/Augmented Intervals	**Homework #17: Major and Perfect Intervals Due** **Classwork #6: Major and minor intervals Due**
Week 11: Oct. 27th – 31st	Tuesday: Interval Inversions Thursday: Review Intervals **Practical Quiz – Sight Singing 3**	**Homework #21: Due** **Homework #22: Intervals Due**
Week 12: Nov. 3rd – 7th	Tuesday: **TEST 4: INTERVALS** Thursday: Major Triads	
Week 13: Nov. 10th – 14th	**Tuesday: NO CLASSES (Labor Day)** Thursday: Major/Minor Triads	**Classwork #8: Major Triads Due**

Week 14: Nov. 17th – 21st	Tuesday: Augmented/Diminished Triads	**Classwork #9: Major and Minor Triads Due**
	Thursday: Triad Inversions	**Homework #23 Due**
Week 15: Nov. 24th – 28th	Tuesday; Final Review **Practical Quiz – Sight Singing 4**	**Homework #23 Due**
	Thursday: **NO CLASSES (Thanksgiving Day)**	

Final exam: Juries – Time and Date TBA