

Howard University | College of Arts and Sciences  
Division of Fine Arts  
Academic Year 2019-2020

## *Musical Theatre Area*

### **Program Description**

The BFA Musical Theatre program is designed to train and prepare students for successful entrance into the professional world of musical theatre. We strive to train the total artist through the rigorous study of acting, singing, and dancing technique. Upon completion of the BFA Musical Theatre degree, students will enter the industry as disciplined, focused, skillful artists that lead diverse careers as stage performers, arts educators, arts advocates and theorists of the discipline. Over the four-year matriculation through the BFA Musical Theatre program students take both practical and theoretical courses that encourage masterful application of the discipline.

### **Attendance Policy**

Training and assessment in the BFA Musical Theatre program are based on your ability to synthesize dance technique, singing, acting, music theory application, and historical knowledge through your performances. The MT Area faculty understands that life happens. Your presence in every class, lesson, rehearsal, and studio is essential to the successful completion of the BFA in Musical Theatre. **Attendance is mandatory.** Work schedules, HU administration needs, HU administration visits, day of illness, travel schedules, and dining schedules are not valid reasons for missing class.

***Absences from major classes shall be deemed excused under the following circumstances.***

1. **Medical Emergency** – An official letter of service from the Howard University Student Health Services Center or medical provider must accompany the student upon return to classes.
2. **Death** – Official documentation of proof of attendance to services must accompany the student upon return to classes. This documentation must be submitted within 5 days of the student's return.

### **Uniform Policy**

In ALL performance based technique classes we adhere to a professional standard. All BFA Musical Theatre majors are required to wear black attire as detailed in the area handbook. Performance technique classes include all Acting, Dance, Vocal Studio and MT Techniques courses. Attire should show the line of the body.

Unacceptable attire includes: JEANS, MID-DRIFT TOPS, HALF SHIRTS, GRAPHIC TEES, LOGO TEES, LONG FINGER NAILS. Hairstyles should be neat and should not interfere with the work. Rubber soled sneakers are permissible for Acting Techniques 1 & 2. Please note, you will be dismissed from class for lack of compliance.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The vocal studio is a performance based class, and as a result you must be appropriately dressed according to the dress code above. As well, please be mindful that in ALL classes, the length and fit of skirt/shorts should be appropriate for the academic space.

**Introduction to Theory for Musical Theatre**  
**THMT - 041 - 02**  
**Professor Brittany Chanell Johnson**  
**bchanellj@gmail.com**

Class Meeting Information

Lulu Vere Childers Hall,  
Room 3010  
Tuesday and Thursday  
9:40 - 11:00 AM

Office Information

Lulu Vere Childers Hall,  
Room 1012E

*meetings by appointment only*

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**Course Goal:**

To develop musical understanding and awareness through investigation of the fundamental elements of music.

**Course objectives:**

1. Define, identify, analyze, and manipulate basic musical elements
2. Demonstrate knowledge and skills relevant to Musical Theatre
3. Demonstrate the ability to express musical ideas through written, aural, and oral communication

**Course Content:**

THMT041 includes the study of pitch, duration, meter and time signature, major and minor scales, key signatures, melodic and harmonic intervals, triads, nonharmonic tones, cadences, song form, and important terms that relate to the topics.

**Required Materials:**

1. Franceschina, John: Music Theory Through Musical Theatre: Putting it Together. Oxford University Press, 2015.
2. manuscript paper
3. pencil

## **Instructor Expectations and Professionalism**

**Participation** - Students are expected to be present and prepared at all class meetings. Active participation is required. Participation includes - asking questions, participating in discussions, responding to instructor questions, promptness, and general overall attention to the class session.

**Homework** - Homework is due on Tuesday mornings, at the beginning of class. Assignments can be dispersed via blackboard, other online resources, or hard copy. Homework assignments released during class(es) that you miss should be obtained from a classmate.

**Attendance** - Your presence in class is essential to the successful completion of the BFA in Musical Theatre. **Attendance is mandatory. Medical and bereavement absences are excused with proper documentation.**

**More than two unexcused absences will affect your grade. At three unexcused absences, your grade will drop 5% points. 5% points will be deducted from your final grade for each subsequent absence.**

**Be on time. Tardy attendance is not acceptable. Therefore, three tardies will be counted as one unexcused absence.**

### **Evaluation & Grading**

Homework | 15%  
*due each week at first class  
meeting*

Quizzes | 30%  
*10% per quiz - 3 quizzes  
total*

Participation | 10%  
*grade given at each class meeting*

Midterm | 20%  
*cumulative*

Final Exam | 25%  
*cumulative*

### **Additional Resources**

There are a number of resources available to you which can supplement your studies.

1. [musictheory.net](http://musictheory.net)
2. [teoria.com](http://teoria.com)

## University Policies & Statements

**Grade of Incomplete:** A grade of incomplete may be given only when requested in advance by the student. These grades must be completed by the middle of the following semester or the grade will automatically revert to a failing grade. Although the student initiates the request for an incomplete grade, the decision to assign an incomplete grade rests solely with the instructor. A grade of incomplete may be assigned only to students who, as a result of circumstances beyond their control (e.g., illness or family emergency), are unable to complete their coursework. As such, a student who simply fails to satisfactorily complete the course requirements through lack of effort is not eligible for an incomplete grade.

**Academic Integrity:** As part of Howard's community of scholars, you are expected to hold the pursuit of learning and the search for truth in the highest regard while displaying unquestionable integrity and honesty. There is no place for academic dishonesty, regardless of any seeming advantage or gain that may accrue from such dishonesty. Students will be disciplined for any intentional act(s) of dishonesty in the fulfillment of academic course or program requirements and for intentionally representing as one's own, any ideas, writings and works of another without acknowledging that author.

The minimum disciplinary penalty imposed upon a student found to have committed any infraction(s) of the Academic Code of Conduct is no credit for the course assignment or examination in which the infraction(s) occurred. However, a more severe penalty, such as failure in the course involved or suspension from the University may be imposed depending upon the nature and extent of the infraction(s).

For complete Academic Policies, see pages 12-22 of the 2015-16 *Howard University Student Handbook* at <https://www.howard.edu/students/hbook/H-Book.pdf>

### **"WRITING MATTERS" STATEMENT**

Writing is an essential tool for thinking and communicating in virtually every discipline and profession. Therefore, in this course I expect you to produce writing that is not only thoughtful and accurate, but also organized, clear, grammatical, and consistent with the conventions of the field. If your writing does not meet these standards, I may deduct points or ask you to revise. For assistance with your writing, go to the student section of the Writing across the Curriculum (WAC) website, <http://www.cetla.howard.edu/wac/students.aspx>.

### **STATEMENT OF ADA PROCEDURES**

Howard University is committed to providing an educational environment that is accessible to all students. In accordance with this commitment, students in need of accommodations due to a disability should contact the Office of the Dean for Special Student Services for verification and determination of reasonable accommodations as soon as possible after admission to the University, or at the beginning of each academic semester. The Office of the Dean for Special

Student Services may be reached at (202) 238-2420. If you need a special accommodation required by the American Disabilities Act, please bring it to my attention during the first two weeks of classes or immediately after the determination is made so that I may better plan and execute such accommodations.

## **STATEMENT ON INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE**

Howard University takes sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking and sexual harassment seriously. If a student reveals that he or she needs assistance with any of these issues, all Responsible Employees, which includes faculty, are required to share this information with the University Title IX Office at (202) 806-2550 or a student can be referred for confidential services to the Interpersonal Violence Prevention Program (IVPP) at (202) 238-2382 or University Counseling Services at (202) 806-6870. For more information about these services, please go to **[www.CampusSafetyFirst.Howard.Edu](http://www.CampusSafetyFirst.Howard.Edu)**.

# Introduction to Theory for Musical Theatre

## *Music Theory through Musical Theatre*

*this schedule can be adjusted at the instructor's discretion - notification will be given*

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### **CYCLE 1**

Weeks 1 - 3

*Chapter 1 - Basic Concepts for Reading, Writing, and Appreciating Music*

### **QUIZ: Cycle 1**

Thursday, September 5, 2019

### **CYCLE 2**

Weeks 4 - 6

*Chapter 2 - Major and Minor Scales + Key Signatures*

### **CUMULATIVE MIDTERM**

Thursday, September 26, 2019

### **CYCLE 3**

Weeks 7 - 9

*Chapter 4 - Intervals*

### **QUIZ: Cycle 3**

Thursday, October 17, 2019

### **CYCLE 4**

Weeks 10 - 12

*Chapter 5 - Triads, Seventh Chords, and Nonharmonic Tones*

### **QUIZ: Cycle 4**

Thursday, November 7, 2019

### **LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW**

Friday, November 8, 2019

**CYCLE 5**

Weeks 13 - 14

*Chapter 10 - Song Form and Cadences*

**QUIZ: Cycle 5**

Thursday, November 21, 2019

**LAST DAY OF CLASS**

**Review**

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

**THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Thursday, November 28, 2019

*No classes*

**FINAL EXAM**

Thursday, December 5, 2019

11 AM - 1 PM