

Senior Project

TH 495-002 | Spring 2021 | 3 Credit Hours

Activity Performance or Studio

Mrs. Stacy Alley

Contact Information

UA Campus Directory:

- Mrs. Stacy Alley (<https://www.ua.edu/directory/?i=slalley#listing>)

Prerequisites

UA Course Catalog Prerequisites:

Permission from faculty supervisor or department head.

Students must have successfully completed all Musical Theatre classes required by the BFA musical theatre curriculum prior to the second semester of senior year.

Course Description

Course Description and Credit Hours

The Senior Project is a culminating course designed for BFA majors at the University of Alabama that demonstrates the student's growth in their particular area of study (acting, musical theatre, design/technical production). Each student will present a final project in the area of scholarly research or performance/design work within a production (undertaken at some point in their training) that reflects advanced understanding of their chosen topic and accumulated experience. The supervisor of the particular area of study determines the most appropriate format for the student's project. This course fulfills the capstone requirement for the department's core curriculum. A written proposal must be submitted to supervising faculty for approval by the end of the semester preceeding the final semester.

Required Texts

Required Texts from UA Supply Store:

- NONE / NO TEXT REQUIRED (Required)

Course Objectives

- This course is a faculty-supervised public performance conceived and directed by the enrollee, and is a result of their training in the BFA Musical Theatre concentration program.
- It is designed to allow the student to combine his/her knowledge in music, theatre and dance by developing a project/event that showcases the synthesis of all three skills.
- The student will display the following outcomes in the capstone project:
 - Ability to create a viable, balanced theatrical product featuring themselves
 - Vocal growth in timbre, range, stamina and interpretation
 - Growth as a dancer in the area of general body deportment, movement and choreography
 - Theatrical prowess in character building, projection of text, directorial ideas, and script execution
- The capstone material and content, written requirements, hearing and performance date will be approved by the Musical Theatre Faculty.

Student Learning Outcomes

Any student pursuing a BFA degree in Theatre with a Musical Theatre Concentration must successfully propose and perform a Capstone Project during the final semester of their senior year. This project is a culmination of the skills and technique learned from classes and projects required in the musical theatre curriculum.

During the research phase, students will arrange to meet weekly with their faculty advisor and they will work together to set deadlines for each phase of research and production. The student is to take the lead in developing a schedule and to assume responsibility for meeting deadlines. The faculty advisor will keep a record of deadlines consistently and adequately met by the student throughout both semesters of the project. A student's overall grade will suffer due to missed meetings, missed deadlines and/or inadequate preparation.

The student's work from the research phase will be compiled and presented to the faculty advisor by the end of the term. The advisor will retain these materials.

Other Course Materials

N/A

Outline of Topics

The student actor must schedule regular meetings with his/her faculty advisor to ensure the project stays on track.

The student and faculty advisor will agree upon deadlines for completion of various research phases. All research and analysis should be presented for final grading at the completion of spring semester.

In preparation for the presentation of the piece the student actor must compile the following information which will be presented in a binder at the end of the preparation quarter.

- Concept statement

- Request letter and rights granted letter for the proposed piece as envisioned by student actor
- Applicable biographical information as it pertains to the selected piece(s)
- A character analysis for all characters to be portrayed
- A description of necessary technical requirements (use of lighting, costumes, set and sound elements). Please remember that technical support is limited. As the actor you must decide how best to utilize what is available to you
- An essay reflecting on the value of your General Education and Major coursework as it pertains to this project
- Additional readings, assignments or activities as directed by faculty advisor
- A rehearsal schedule
- Schedule regular meetings with faculty advisor to ensure that the project stays on track. The faculty advisor will request to attend selected rehearsals
- Be prepared to present piece mid-way through the semester for the theatre faculty (specific date to be announced at the beginning of the semester); if sufficient preparation isn't demonstrated, the student actor will not be allowed to present the project at the end of the semester
- Prepare a program
- Stage project on scheduled presentation date for the general public

Exams and Assignments

The Capstone or Senior Project will count as your final jury and will be completed over the course of the semester.

Planning, research, and deadlines: 20%

Final project: 70%

WRITTEN REFLECTION/Analysis: 10%

One week after the performance, the student submits a written/electronic reflection and post analysis of the process through performance to each member of the Musical Theatre Faculty.

Grading Policy

See student handbook.

Policy on Missed Exams and Coursework

N/A

Attendance Policy

The student must meet with their professor/faculty advisor on a bi-monthly schedule agreed upon by both parties at the beginning of the semester. Failure to keep such appointments will result in a grade deduction.

Notification of Changes

The instructor will make every effort to follow the guidelines of this syllabus as listed; however, the instructor reserves the right to amend this document as the need arises. In such instances, the instructor will notify students in class and/or via email and will endeavor to provide reasonable time for students to adjust to any changes.

Capstone Project Guidelines

1. All performance projects must last no longer than 50 minutes from start to finish.
2. If choosing a cabaret-style project, you must include 8-10 songs, of which 6 must be solos.
3. You are required to officially propose your project by writing a **detailed, specific** proposal outlining what you intend to do including material performed, how you intend to put it together, resources required, and people involved.
4. You should keep other options in mind in case we don't accept your first proposal. If we ask for a second option, it will be due the following week.
5. Your project must be at least 50% completed the week after Spring Break (time and exact date TBA) during which the musical theatre faculty will provide feedback and hopefully, "greenlight" it.
6. The musical theatre faculty may decide to postpone or cancel outright any project not demonstrating adequate and suitable progress during the review.
7. The deadline to propose your project is February 1st at 5pm via a proposal sent to Stacy Alley, Head of Musical Theatre.
8. If you require an accompanist, you are responsible for acquiring/hiring your own.
9. Capstone Projects will be performed the week of finals during the spring semester.
10. The Capstone Project will count as your final jury.
11. It is up to the student to secure rehearsal space and times.
12. Students may include other singers/dancers/actors in the performance in order to show variety with small ensembles and duets that will enhance their project, but this should be kept to a minimum.

13. You are responsible for directing and paying for your own project (purchasing the rights, etc.)
14. Simplicity is the key – so use a minimum of props, furniture or scenery. Keep costume changes to a minimum. The student is responsible for attaining any props or costumes for the performance – the student should communicate these needs via the Faculty Advisor.

Statement on Academic Misconduct

Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the official Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/academic-regulations/student-expectations/academic-misconduct-policy/>) provided in the Online Catalog.

Statement On Disability Accommodations

Contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) (<https://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/support-programs/disability-services/>) as detailed in the Online Catalog.

Severe Weather Protocol

Please see the latest Severe Weather Guidelines (<https://ready.ua.edu/severe-weather-guidelines/>) in the Online Catalog.

Pregnant Student Accommodations

Title IX protects against discrimination related to pregnancy or parental status. If you are pregnant and will need accommodations for this class, please review the University's FAQs on the UAct website (<https://www.ua.edu/campuslife/uact/information/pregnancy>) .

Religious Observances

Under the Guidelines for Religious Holiday Observances, students should notify the instructor in writing or via email during the first two weeks of the semester of their intention to be absent from class for religious observance. The instructor will work to provide reasonable opportunity to complete academic responsibilities as long as that does not interfere with the academic integrity of the course. See full guidelines at Religious Holiday Observances Guidelines (<https://provost.ua.edu/oa-guidelines-for-religious-holidays-observance>) .

UAct Statement

The University of Alabama is committed to an ethical, inclusive community defined by respect and civility. The UAct website (www.ua.edu/uact (<https://www.ua.edu/uact>)) provides extensive information on how to report or obtain assistance with a variety of issues, including issues related to dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, sexual violence or other Title IX violations, illegal discrimination, harassment, hate or bias incidents, child abuse or neglect, hazing, threat assessment, retaliation, and ethical violations or fraud.

Statement on COVID-19

All University faculty, staff, and students are expected to maintain a commitment to the health and safety of our campus community. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, specific health and safety standards are in place to minimize exposure and community spread on campus. In the interest of your health and safety and that of all UA students, faculty and staff, the University reserves the right to change the mode of instruction or schedule of instruction at any time, based upon prevailing public health and other guidance. While the method of delivery may change, educational instruction and opportunities will continue. As such, the University will not provide a refund of tuition, in whole or in-part, based on any such changes. Detailed information on changes in format or schedule can be found at studentaccounts.ua.edu (<https://studentaccounts.ua.edu>) and financialaid.ua.edu (<https://financialaid.ua.edu/>).

All students must be familiar with and abide by the requirements outlined in the UA Return Plan | UA System Comprehensive Health and Safety Plan. Students must (1) wear a mask or face covering at all times while participating in face-to-face class; (2) adhere to social distancing standards; and (3) comply with all other health and safety restrictions. If a student refuses to comply with the requirements, the student will be asked to leave the class and reported for a conduct violation. Unless a student has an exemption from the requirement to wear a face covering, (more information can be found at ods.ua.edu/covid-19-disability/ (<http://ods.ua.edu/covid-19-disability/>)), the student will be reported to Student Life for further disciplinary action. More information on these requirements and UA Healthcheck system and screening can be found at healthinfo.ua.edu/returnplan (<https://healthinfo.ua.edu/returnplan>). You are expected to visit the site and comply with all noted requirements related to in-person class attendance.