

**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**MUSC 116**  
**Musicianship for the Musical Theater**  
**3 Semester Hours**

**HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Description**

Musicianship for the Musical Theater is a one semester course required of all Musical Theater Majors. It is an intensive approach to teaching students the aural skills that enable them to sing music at sight, a process that usually takes place over a period of four semesters in a traditional music program. As such, students in this class must be able to read music, as it does not include the fundamentals of music reading. After a brief review of musical notation, the student will learn solfège and its applications through standard ear training exercises, then progress to literature from operetta and musical theater through the mid 1900s. After these basic skills are developed, more difficult musical theater literature from 1950 through the present will be studied. Exposure to Musical Theater repertoire and learning music without assistance will be stressed. It is strongly recommended that students possess basic music reading skills equivalent to MUSC-100 Fundamentals of Music. (3 hours weekly)

**Overall Course Objectives**

The objectives of this course are to develop the skills required to

1. Read music accurately at sight
2. Approach learning new music in a logical and systematic manner
3. Understand and exhibit the high level of musicianship expected in the profession
4. Possess a good knowledge of standard repertoire of all periods in the field
5. Develop a responsible and professional approach to the musical theater field

**Major Topics**

- I. Review of music fundamentals, key signatures and scales, rhythms
- II. Solfège, numbers and their applications
- III. Diatonic sight reading in all major and minor keys
- IV. Developing an approach to learning new literature efficiently
- V. Pre-1900 musical theater literature
- VI. Sight reading modulations
- VII. 1900 – 1950 musical theater literature
- VIII. Non-traditional melodies and rhythm patterns
- IX. Musical theater literature from 1950 – the present

**Course Requirements**

Grading & exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following: class participation, outside preparation of assignments, and periodic written and aural quizzes on the material.

**Other Course Information**

This course is an Arts and Sciences elective, a Fine Arts elective, and a Humanities elective.