A previous course, *Six by Sondheim*, was based on the documentary by James Lapine, and focused on six individual songs in shows from *West Side Story* to *Sunday in the Park*. This fall we study three musicals not included in the earlier class. We will examine dramatic structure of each musical, and Sondheim’s reflections on his role as a collaborator on *Gypsy*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and *Into the Woods*.

October 11 Introduction: Accessible? Hummable? Your thoughts here

- Brief biography of Sondheim’s personal and professional life, including video clips with Sondheim over several decades.

  Consider Sondheim as a musical dramatist and collaborator

  Begin examination of the three principles guiding his work.

  Song for study. “No One’s Gonna Harm You” from *Sweeney Todd*

October 18 *Gypsy* “Broadway’s answer to Lear”

- Backstory on the original production

  Collaboration with composer Julie Styne and book writer Arthur Laurents

  Survey of where songs appear and how each contributes to the drama.

  Terms: singing actor Broadway star backstager showstopper

Songs for Study:
Everything’s Coming Up Roses I’ll never get away from you Rose’s Turn

Dr. Jeffrey Magee, Professor of Music at U of I will join us. He is writing a book on *Gypsy* and will share with us his research on Rose’s Turn, including his phone conversations with Sondheim.
October 25  *Forum* “Farces are express trains, musicals are locals.”
Backstory on the original production

According to Sondheim the hardest lyrics he ever had to write were for *Forum*. We will examine why that might have been so.

Terms Show doctor savor the moment songs Broadway comedians

Songs for study: Comedy Tonight Lovely Free

Nov. 1  *Into the Woods* “A fairy tale musical”
Backstory on the original production

Collaboration with James Lapine

Musical themes and their use throughout the score

Act One/Act Two structure in *Sunday in the Park* and *Into the Woods*

Songs for Study:
Into the Woods I Know Things Now No one is Alone Children will Listen