Semester/Year: Fall 2006

Lecture Hours: 3          Lab Hours: 0          Credit Hours: 3

Class Time: 3:00-3:50      Days: W          Room: CE 115

Instructor: David Zoby    Office: 101 CE    Phone: 268-2379

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Office Hours: 9-12 W, 8-9, and 11-12:30 T, TH and by appointment

Course Description: English Composition is “A study of the fundamentals of purposeful communication in English. The course focuses on reading and writing expository essays, on using effective language for exposition of ideas, and on thinking clearly. Students are to practice synthesizing information, organizing it coherently, and writing clearly.” (from the Casper College Catalogue) This course stresses reading and writing critically. You’ll notice that the reading is fast-paced, interesting and addresses the kinds of themes that inspire lively discussion. It is my hope that you will find this class challenging, enlightening and enjoyable.

Prerequisites: Acceptable performance on ACT, SAT, or COMPASS or satisfactory completion of DVST 0610.

Required Texts:
--Rock Springs, Richard Ford
--In Cold Blood, Truman Capote
--A Sand County Almanac, Aldo Leopold
--Montana 1948, Larry Watson
--A Writer’s Reference, Diane Hacker

Objectives:
• to expose students to a wide variety of writing styles and techniques
• to encourage free flowing narrative and expository writing
• to utilize descriptive writing techniques, making use of metaphor and simile
• to develop a central thesis and pursue it to the fullest
• to recognize and appreciate solid persuasive writing skills
• to develop vocabulary and sentence variation
• to cite and reference secondary sources (MLA)
• to write in several rhetorical modes
**Evaluation:** Students will write five 3-4 page essays in this class. (The narrative will be worth 20%, the summary response 25%, and the final exam calls for two essays (comparison/contrast, summary response, persuasive, short research) and is worth 25%) All essays must be typed and double-spaced. In addition to these essays will be one in-class essay worth 20%. Students must complete all of the major assignments in order to pass this class. In-class writing exercises, completion of quizzes, class participation and regular attendance is expected from all students. Quizzes and in-class assignments will account for 10% of the final grade. Grades will be measured on a ten point scale: 100-90=A; 89-80=B; 79-70=C; 69-60=D; 59-below=F.

**Class Participation:** In this class you are more than a student, you are part of a writing community where your ideas, feedback and input are necessary to your success and the success of your peers. A healthy and spirited exchange of opinions helps the class become more enjoyable and also fosters the kind of writing environment that encourages freethinking. It has been my experience that the persons most invested in class participation are also most vested in their course work. Be a student who adds to the classroom discussions.

**Revisions:** Students who are unhappy with a grade on a specific assignment should meet with me and schedule a conference. Revisions must be resubmitted no longer than one week after the student received their first grade.

**The Writing Center:** Casper College provides this free service to students who would like one-on-one attention to their writing projects. I strongly encourage students to use this service. I have noticed great improvement from students who use the writing center. Having a second reader is not cheating; it’s good planning.

**Conferences:** You’ll notice conference days on the syllabus. I like to meet with each student and discuss strengths and weaknesses in their course work. Please bring your graded essays with you to your meetings.

**Class Policies: Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade:** See current Casper College catalog.

**Attendance:** Due to the large number of absences in my previous classes I am writing a simple attendance policy. Attendance counts. Students who miss six classes will see their grades lowered by one letter grade.

**Student Rights and Responsibilities:** Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

**Chain of Command:** If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor in order to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take your problem through the appropriate
chain of command starting with the department head, then the division chair, and lastly the vice president for academic affairs.

**Academic Dishonesty - Cheating & Plagiarism:** Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct.

**An Additional Note on Plagiarism:** which is the passing off as one’s own words the words, ideas or thoughts of another will be prosecuted in accordance with the policies in the Casper College Student Handbook under Casper College Student and Judicial Code (see Article I, Item 3. a,b,c. On “cheating” definitions and Article III, B. 1.a. regarding, “Cheating, plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty.”

**ADA Accommodations Policy:** It is the policy of Casper College to provide appropriate accommodations to any student with a documented disability. If you have a need for accommodation in this course, please make an appointment to see me at your earliest convenience.

**Calendar or schedule indicating course content:**

**August**
30th  Introduction/Handout “A Boy’s Work” **Writing the narrative.** Handout/ Levis Poems/ In-class writing. Writing with description.

**September**

13th Workshop/ groups. Bring a 3-4 page rough draft to class. Peer response. Begin Leopold 1-15. **Narrative Essay due on the 15th.**

20th Leopold 16-100. An academic discussion of the text.

27th  Introduction to Montana 1948. You should have pages 1-75 read and be ready to discuss at length. There will be a group exercise during this class.

**October**
4th  Montana 76-150. Groups.


18th  In Cold Blood pp. 22-130. A discussion of themes.

25th  No class. Fall Break.
**November**

1st Finish Capote. How to cite passages from a text. Paragraph organization. MLA activities and exercises. In class strategies. How to pre-write.

8th **No class.**

15th **In-class exam covering Capote and Watson.** “Letter from Birmingham Jail” King. A short discussion of persuasive writing, the three appeals (logic, emotion, character).


**December**

6th. Continue **Rock Springs**. Read “Children” and “Winterkill”.


20th

Final is due.