Semester/Year: Fall 2006

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

Class Time: 6:00-8:40 p.m.  Days: Tuesday  Room: AD 183

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

E-mail: dzoby@caspercollege.edu

Office Hours: 11-12 MWF, 11-12:30 TH, and by appointment

Course Description:
As the enormous popularity of national bestsellers demonstrate, the creative nonfiction genre has far-reaching appeal for millions of readers. In this course the student will analyze the elements of nonfiction and practice writing nonfiction at the introductory and intermediate level.

Creative Non-fiction will encourage students to appreciate the characteristics and to develop writing skills in the area of memoir, nature writing, historical non-fiction, academic writing and critical essay. The class reaches across several curricula to demonstrate purpose and practicality in a wide range of writing styles. There will be a heavy reading requirement for this course. Texts might include selection from the following: Desert Solitaire, by Edward Abbey; The Liar’s Club, by Mary Karr; Naked, by David Sedaris; The Meadow, by James Galvin; In the Heart of the Sea, by Nathaniel Philbrick and other texts that would help students understand the genre. After initial readings from professional authors, students will begin submitting their work to the class for in depth response. As the semester matures, students will write extensively within this genre, the goal being to generate their own texts for a final grade.

Prerequisites: ENGL 1020, or permission of the instructor.

Required Texts
A series of handouts provided by the instructor.

Objectives
- to build a common knowledge of the genre
- to build appreciation for the genre
- to encourage verbal skills through class presentations
- to enhance and improve writing skills
- to look critically at each other’s work
Evaluation
There will be one major paper, class workshops and several writing exercises in this class. The main essay will count for 50%, while the exercises will count for 25%. Your final portfolio and class participation will fill out the final 25%. Note: class participation for this course is quite important and I am expecting loyal devotion to class meetings and unusual preparedness. You should not miss more than two classes during the semester.

Schedule of Assignments

August
29. Course Introduction: Handout, “Return” and “Hills Like…” Discussion on workshop habits and ethics.

September
5. Exercise 1, writing dialogue. In-class writing. Discussion of creative non-fiction genre.
19. Peer review. Handout from Naked.

October
10. Mock workshop.
17. First student essays
24. No class. Fall break.
31. How to re-write. Student workshops.

November
7. Student Essays.
14. Continue student essays with an emphasis on re-writing.
21. Student essays.
28. Student essays.

December
5. Course wrap up and final peer reviews
19. Portfolios are due.