Course Number and Title: **HUMN 2490-01** Introduction to American Culture

**Semester/Year:** Fall 2006

Lecture Hours: 3  Lab: 0  Credit Hours: 3

Class Time: 9-10:30 PM  Days: T Th  Room: AD284

**Instructor’s name:** Margo H. Perry  **E-mail:** mperry@caspercollege.edu

**Instructor’s office:** AD288  **Office Hours:** 9 am – 10:30 Monday and Wednesday and by appointment  **Phone Messages:** 268-3069

**Course Description:** This course is designed as an overview of American culture. All students will develop a framework for a better understanding of some specific aspects of American life, such as family, education, religion, politics and business. This course will be particularly beneficial for students who have a limited knowledge of the values, perspectives, institutions, and traditions which bind Americans together.

**Statement of Prerequisites:** None.

**Goals:**

1. To become aware of American cultural patterns.
2. To understand how history, traditions, demography, geography, and climate influence the way Americans live and behave.
3. To develop skills to interact appropriately with Americans in a variety of contexts.
4. To provide a forum where questions and concerns as they relate to cultural adjustment can be addressed.
5. To draw upon a variety of academic disciplines to describe the experience of being American.
6. To promote cross-cultural tolerance and greater global understanding.

**Outcomes:**

1. Students will learn the unifying values that have attracted people to the USA.
2. Students will appreciate the diversity that characterizes the USA and recognize where Casper, Wyoming fits into the broad spectrum of American values and traditions.
3. Students will become more sensitive to cultural differences and similarities.
4. Students will increase understanding of American family, business, education, religion, government, arts and leisure activities.

**Methodology:** Open discussion will be promoted through the use of lectures, videos, fieldtrips, reports, guest speakers, current events, literature, and group work.

**Evaluation Criteria:** Grades will be determined based on assignments (including homework), participation, an “Ask Americans” journal, quizzes, tests and projects according to the following scale: 100 – 90 = A / 89 – 80 = B / 79 – 70 = C / 69 – 60 = D / 59 - 0 = F

The instructor may give “pop” quizzes. Projects will be presented to the class.

**Required Text and Reading Materials:**
- Draper, C.G., *All American Stories (Book A),* Pearson-Longman

**Last Date to change to Audit Status:** See official calendar in current Casper College Catalog

**Last Date to Withdraw with a W Grade:** See official calendar in current Casper College Catalog

Cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed during class time. Students are not allowed to leave the room once a test has begun.

**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 division chair (Tammy Frankland), and lastly the vice president for academic affairs (Dr. Carmen Simone).

**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.

**It is the policy of Casper College to provide appropriate accommodations to any student with a documented disability.** If you have need for accommodations in this course, please make an appointment to see me at your earliest convenience or contact the Accommodative Services Counselor in the Counseling Office in the Administration Building.

This syllabus is your guide for this course. Specific information regarding assignments will be distributed only to those students enrolled in the class. Assignments are subject to
revision and/or deletion based upon the instructor’s assessment of needs and progress of
the class working from the syllabus.

Schedule of Assignments: Schedules will be distributed in class to enrolled students.