CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
THEA 1010:01  INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE FOR THEATRE AND DANCE MAJORS
AND SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS

Semester/Year:  Fall 2006
Lecture Hours: 3  Lab Hours: 0  Credit Hours:  (3L, 3CR)
Class Time: 10:00-10:50 a.m.  DAYS: M, W, F  ROOM: KT 118

Instructor: Tom Empey
Instructor’s Contact: Office Phone: 268-2216  E-mail: tempey@caspercollege.edu
Information: It is best to contact me through the theatre Academic Assistant Arlis Handeland – 268-2365 – 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. M-F. (KT 102)
Office Hours: M, W, 2:00-4:00 p.m. T, 11:00-11:50, 2:00-4:00-(KT 103)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:  A foundation course for theatre and dance majors as preparation for other theatre and dance courses.  It is an introduction to the Casper College Theatre and Dance facilities, theatre history, the business and practitioners of theatre, theatre styles and genre.

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE GOAL: The objective of this course is to introduce the student to the history and arts of the theatre so that the student may develop greater familiarity with the theatre.  It is hoped that each student will become a more discriminating theatre-goer who will have some insight into why we have theatre and the role it plays in our world.

OUTCOMES: The student who completes this course should be able to do the following:

1. Become a “citizen” of the Casper College Theatre and Dance Department, understanding that in every way theatre is a collaborative Art.
2. Develop the personal discipline required to succeed in college coursework (if it does not already exist.)
3. Evaluate in writing plays and stage/screen productions as assigned.
4. Be familiar with selected theatre genre and the elements of a play.
5. Discuss the work of some of the practitioners of theatre: actors, playwrights, directors, designers, and technicians.
6. Become knowledgeable of the meaning of style in the theatre.
7. Create a personal résumé.
8. Discuss theatre as business in the United States today including profit and not for profit theatres; where it is done and the problems of attracting theatre audiences.
9. Discuss some of the production techniques, theatre types, styles, practitioners, playwrights, and conventions of selected periods of theatre history.
10. Develop a basic vocabulary of the theatre.
METHODOLOGY:

1. Introduction to Theatre is largely a lecture course designed to provide a common ground for students in theatre and dance at Casper College. The class uses some video support for the material presented. The instructor encourages student questions and discussion.

2. The course lectures will draw both from the text and from supplementary material supplied by the instructor.

3. The course will cover the following units/subject matter.
   a. Introductory material – Definition and origin of theatre.
   b. The Greek Philosopher Aristotle’s foundation thoughts on theatre.
   c. A review of the types of plays.
   d. A brief introduction to the Asian Theatre.
   e. A study of six styles of theatre in the U.S. today.
   f. A study of writing a theatre “review,” including papers reviewing college productions for this semester.
   g. A review of the types of stages in today’s theatre.
   h. A review of the jobs of Playwright, Producer, Director, Actor, Set Designer, Lighting Designer and Costume Designer.
   i. The Greek Theatre including a video viewing and study of Oedipus the King. This section will also review Aristotle's six elements of theatre.
   j. A review of the Physical Theatres of the Romans, the European Medieval and the Italian Renaissance.
   k. The Elizabethan theatre including a paper on a video viewing by the student of a filmed version of a play by Shakespeare. This film will be chosen by the student.
   l. Information about attending theatre.
   m. The current business of theatre including where and how theatre is done in the U.S. today and focusing upon the difference between commercial and not-for-profit production.
   n. A look at the American musical theatre as the most popular form in the U.S. today.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

A. Grading will be based on the following:

1. Attendance: I expect students to be in class. You will not succeed in this class unless you attend regularly. Students who register for this class will be expected to attend regularly. Class attendance should be rewarded. Therefore, each student will be allowed 200 points for the semester for attendance. No credit will be deducted for the first three classes missed by the student. Afterward, 20 points will be deducted for each class missed. When no attendance points remain the student will be automatically failed. (that is a maximum of thirteen absences or one-third of total classes). Please note that there is no such a thing as an excused absence at Casper College. Absences for any reason will be recorded. If a student misses class no material will be repeated by the Instructor. It will be the student’s obligation to obtain the material elsewhere. If tardiness becomes a problem the instructor may institute a policy of three tardies equaling one absence.

2. Examinations: There will be three exams worth 200-300 points each. These exams must be completed when scheduled. If the exam is not completed as scheduled the
student will not be permitted to take the exam.

3. **Class assignments:** These may be of several types:
   a) **Worksheets.** These will be supplied by the instructor as preparation for class discussion. Typically they will consist of questions to be completed from the assigned reading material. Each will be due at the beginning of the period on the day the material is to be discussed. The worksheets will be worth approximately 30-60 pts. each.

   b) **Film "responses."** A number of films are used in this class. Short evaluations of films shown in class will be completed on forms supplied by the Instructor. **Films shown in class may not be made up if missed and the student will miss the point value of the film response.**

c) Class assignments such as short papers, chapter questions and assignments, etc. Typically these will be worth 25-50 points. There are only a small number of these.

4. **Quizzes** based on reading material and worksheets. These will be worth 10-30 points. If these are missed they may not be made up. Typically these will be given at the beginning of class on the day a worksheet is due.

5. **Résumé:** Each student will create a résumé following the outline provided by the instructor.

6. **Papers:** The student will be required to submit three typed papers on specific topics listed below at 150 points each. An assignment sheet for each paper will be given for each paper.
   a. **Paper #1:** A 3 page double-spaced paper analyzing a play or movie (150 points)

   b. **Paper #2:** Write a paper on either your involvement in *A Chorus Line* or a review of *A Chorus Line*, according to the criteria you will be given. (150 points)

   c. **Paper #3:** A review of an assigned Shakespearean film (150 pts)

   All three papers must be a minimum of three double-spaced typewritten pages using Times Roman font and not larger than 12 point size. All papers have specific deadlines. If these papers are submitted handwritten the paper will not be graded. Do not submit your papers in a report cover.

   B. **Grading will be distributed as follows:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>200 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examinations (four)</td>
<td>1000 pts. (total may vary as tests are constructed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Résumé</td>
<td>100 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three papers</td>
<td>450 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daily work, worksheets, film reports, etc.</td>
<td>600 pts.</td>
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<td>2350 pts. (approx. total; actual total may vary either way as much as 100 pts)</td>
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C. Method of grading: Grades will be assigned on the following percentage scale:

- 90 - 100% = A
- 80 - 89.9% = B
- 70 - 79.9% = C
- 60 - 69.9% = D
- 50 - 59.9% = F

At midterm and again at the end of the course, points for each student will be totaled and divided by the total points possible. It is up to the student to keep track of points. You can determine your grade at any time in the semester simply by dividing the number of accumulated points by the total possible points at that time.

REQUIRED TEXT:
A. Tom Markus and Linda Sarver, Another Opening, Another Show, 2nd Edition
B. Anna Claybourne and Rebecca Treays, The Usborne World of Shakespeare.

Class Policies:

1. **NO LATE WORK** will be accepted. Please observe all deadlines listed on the schedule. Work will always be accepted before the final due date. If you are going to miss a class, hand the assignment in before the absence or it will be marked late. Play Reports are due at the beginning of the class when the play is discussed. All other work is due when scheduled on the syllabus. If you do decide to hand work in late and the instructor agrees to accept it, each assignment will be worth 25-50% less than the credit possible. Missing class does not give you the right to submit an assignment late for full credit.

2. There will be no alternate assignments given for required attendance at outside plays and movies.

3. There will be no extra credit assignments.

4. Assignments **must be submitted at the beginning of the period**.

5. Students will be expected to take all four exams on or before the scheduled date including the final.

6. Classroom rules
   a. Please do not eat during my class. Water bottles and sodas are okay.
   b. **CELL PHONES ARE NOT APPROPRIATE IN CLASS**. Please turn them off. They are extremely distracting when they ring and text messaging is rude and inappropriate.

7. **REGISTRATION CHANGES**: The Final Date for withdrawal from the course or to change to Audit Status will be Friday, October 27th as posted in the Official Semester Schedule. This date will be followed.
STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

B. 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 the instructor at your earliest convenience.

C. 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.

D. 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.
SCHEDULE OF STUDY UNITS AND ASSIGNMENTS
FALL 2006

M  Aug 28  Course Introduction; Chapter 1: “What is Theatre?”
W  Aug 30  General Introduction (continued)
F  Sep  1  Chapter 2: Aristotle’s Guide to Pleasure; Worksheet due on Chapters 2 & 3
M  Sep  4  LABOR DAY HOLIDAY-NO CLASS
W  Sep  6  Aristotle’s Elements
F  Sep  8  Chapters 3: Dramatic Genres & Chapter 4: Style
M  Sep 11  Guest Lecturer
W  Sep 13  Introduction to Asian Theatre
F  Sep 15  Styles in Modern Theatre
W  Sep 20  Chapter 4: Style in Theatre – Reality-Subjective and Idealized
F  Sep 22  Chapter 5: Writing about the Theatre. Paper on Elements, Genre and Style based on a movie, play or video selected by the student-due Monday, Oct 16th.
M  Sep 25  EXAM#1 – Text Act 1- Chapters 1-5
W  Sep 27  Review Exam; Introduction to Text Act II: The Creative Process
W  Oct  4  Discussion of Performing and Directing with Rich Burk, Jodi Jones, Jim Olm and Lindsay Okasaki.
F  Oct  6  Film: Stanislavski, Maker of Modern Theatre
M  Oct  9  Film Report due.
Chapter 13: The Curtain Rises, types of stages (pages 203-222)
Worksheet due, Chapter 13. Resume rough draft due.

W  Oct 11  Discussion with Designers: Douglas Garland, Sean McIntosh and Dustin Jones
F  Oct 13  Chapter 9- Discussion with Designers: Douglas Garland, Sean McIntosh and Dustin Jones
M  Oct 16  Final Discussion
W  Oct 18  Midterm Exam; Resume due
The audience: Who Goes to the Theatre and Why?
M  Oct 23  FALL BREAK – NO CLASS
W  Oct 25  Review midterm exam and grades
F  Oct 27  Chapter 16, The Modern Theatre – “Show Biz is Big Biz”
Worksheet due, Chapters 11, 12, 16.
M  Oct 30  “Show Biz is Big Biz” – continued
W  Nov 1  Chapter 7: “More than Entertainment;”; Profit and Non-Profit theatre; Royalties
F  Nov 3  Chapter 17: The Musical Theatre. Worksheet due, Chapter 17.
M  Nov 6  Introduction to theatre history and the Greek Theatre.
W  Nov 8  The Greek Theatre; Worksheet due, Chapter 15
F  Nov 10 Introduction to Oedipus the King.
M  Nov 13  Film: OEDIPUS THE KING
W  Nov 15  Film: OEDIPUS THE KING
F  Nov 17  Advising Day. Class will be held to discuss Oedipus.
M  Nov 20  Exam #3 – Theatre as a business and the Greek Theatre.
W  Nov 22  THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS
F  Nov 24  THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS
W Nov 29   The Medieval Theatre

F Dec 1   No class- WY State High School Drama – Colorado Thespian Festival

M Dec 4   The Italian Renaissance Theatre

W Dec 7   The Elizabethan Theatre, The Age of Shakespeare

F Dec 9   Shakespeare’s Theatre; Worksheet due on text pages 116-122 and The World of Shakespeare

M Dec 12   Film: William Shakespeare – Life of Drama

W Dec 14   Shakespeare Film Report due

W Dec 14   Shakespeare and his plays

F Dec 16   Shakespeare’s Language. Paper #3-Review of a Shakespeare play or film. Due Thursday, December 21 in my office.

M Dec 18   FINAL EXAM 1:00-3:00

"Theatre is a unique experience. It is part of human nature to separate ourselves from people who are different and live in different situations. The Theatre breaks that barrier of separation. Somehow, the theatre allows us to experience the world of another person and at the same time experience ourselves in our own world. We come to experience and understand, emotionally and intellectually, that our lives connect to another's life, and our world, connects to another's world, this way the theatre ties together our own humanity."

Dr. Debra Bruch
Michigan Technological University