CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
THEA 1100:01-02 ACTING 1

Semester/Year: Fall 2006
Credit Hours: (3L, 3 CR)

Class Time: 01-M, W, F 11:00-11:50 p.m.
02-M, W, F 1:00-1:50 p.m.

Room: KT 171

Instructor: R. Burk Office: KT 104 Phone: 268-2228-voice mail
E-mail: r burk @ caspercollege.edu

OFFICE HOURS: M, W, F-10:00-11:00 a.m. M, W, 2:00-3:00PM- other times by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A foundation performance course with emphasis on exploring and
developing sensory and emotional resources through creative exercises and improvisations
leading to performance readiness. This course uses a step by-step 'learn by doing' methodology.

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE GOALS: Develop and demonstrate an effective fundamental process for creating and
performing a character in the context of improvisation and a theatrical production. The foundation
for this process consists of:

1. **A strong awareness of self.** By understanding that everyone is interesting because everyone
   is unique, students can begin to see their uniqueness, and avoid one of the greatest barriers
to acting which is brought on by the belief that "I can't possibly be interesting. I'm just me."

2. **A fundamental process** that can be utilized with the development of each and every role that is
   played. This process will include vocal, verbal, and physical communication and
   expression.

3. **Respect for acting.** Recognition of the skills, discipline and amount of time and energy
   required to create and perform a role; and recognition of the value that acting and theatre hold
in society. Also, a realization that the skills required in acting are beneficial to all who interact
with others.

OUTCOMES: Students will demonstrate effective use of the acting process which will include

*character definition & understanding
*use of GOTE
*accurate memorization
*effective rehearsal
*effective self-staging
*continuity and focused presentation scenes.

A NOTE ON CRITICISM: Actors must be able to learn from criticism. All performances,
rehearsals, and exercises will be discussed openly. This process will allow students to exchange
observations and develop the ability to identify and implement useful criticism.

A NOTE ON CONTACT: The study of acting requires physical contact, either teacher to student
(in terms of demonstration or physical alignment) or student to student (in the course of scene
work). If you have any concerns about the appropriateness of physical contact talk to the instructor immediately.

METHODOLOGY: Students will achieve the specific objectives by
A. Participating in all classroom activities
   1. Discussions of reading or other assignments
   2. Exams as scheduled
   3. Improvisation
   4. Rehearsal of memorized scenes
   5. Performance of memorized scenes

B. Writing assignments
   1. Written critiques of the acting in *A Chorus Line* and *It’s a Wonderful Life*.
   2. Written analysis of reading assignments (as assigned), written response to other class assignments, as assigned.

C. Final Project

EVALUATION CRITERIA: Individual grades will be based on instructor’s assessment of how completely objectives of the assignment were fulfilled.
If you meet the minimum expectations of the assignments = C
If you exceed expectations = A or B
If you do not meet expectations = D or F

Final grade will be based on the following:
- Attendance 10%
- Written Assignments & Exams 20%
- Scene Work & Improvisation 30%
- Participation & Development 20%
- Final Project 20%

A NOTE ON ATTENDANCE: (Because this is a participatory class, the in-class activities cannot be duplicated. Therefore, *attendance is required*. Beginning with 100 points, each absence will lower your total by 5 points.)

REQUIRED TEXT: *Acting One*, by Robert Cohen, 4th edition

REGISTRATION CHANGES: The final date for withdrawal from the course or to change to Audit status will be those posted in the Official Semester Schedule. This is Friday, Oct. 27th. This date will be strictly followed.

STUDENTS 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 COURSE CONTENT: Because individuals develop at varying rates when they begin to study acting, flexibility is required in the rate of activity. Therefore, rather than a daily schedule, this class is divided into the following 5 sections:

Section 1 - Discuss Syllabus, Theatre/Acting. **What is Acting?** paper.

Section 2 - Improvisation - Non-verbal Communication
- Vocal Communication
- Verbal Communication
- Physical/Verbal/Vocal Communication
- Ensemble/Cooperation Exercises

Section 3 - Beginning Scene Work - Contentless Scene
- Monologue – 30-45 seconds
- Short Scenes

Section 4 - Scene Work Process - Character Analysis
- Script Analysis
- Rehearsal Techniques
- Performance Techniques

Section 5 - Final Project: Showcase Scene + Paper explaining:
- Character Study
- Scene Study
- Rehearsal Record
- Short Performance Response
- Rehearsal Journal