CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
THEA 2310:01 AUDITIONING

Semester/Year:  Fall 2006

Lecture Hours: 2     Lab Hours: 2     Credit Hours: (3CR)

Class Time:  11:00 a.m. -12:50 p.m.     Days:  T, TH     Room:  KT 118

Instructors:   Richard Burk  Office:  KT 104  Phone:  268-2228  E-mail: rburk@caspercollege.edu
               James Olm  Office:  KT 125  Phone:  268-3716  E-mail: jolm@caspercollege.edu

Information: It is best to contact us during office hours.

Office Hours:  R. Burk: M,W,F-10:00-11:00; M,W,2:00-3:00–other times by appt.
              J. Olm: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Practical experience in preparing and presenting audition material, and a preparation for a career in theatre, film, or television.

EXTENDED COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will also give the student a brief glimpse into the practices of making a living as an actor and auditioning for transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

PREREQUISITES:  THEA 1100 or permission of instructor.

COURSE GOAL: In the professional world actors get jobs by auditioning. Most theatre schools require auditions for acceptance. Actors get cast in plays through auditioning. Skill in the auditioning process is essential for further work in theatre. This course will enable the student to understand and prepare for the audition situation.

OUTCOMES: Growth in auditioning skill will come from the preparation of numerous scenes.
1. Each student will develop a minimum repertory of nine audition monologues.
2. Each student will develop a professional résumé.
3. Each student will participate in discussion/criticism of the work of fellow classmates.
4. Each student will participate in discussion of all reading and video assignments.
5. Each student will research possible transfer schools

METHODOLOGY: Auditioning is a participation course. Beginning with of an introduction to the Auditioning process based on principles taught by Broadway casting directors Michael Shurtleff, and Joanna Merlin, the bulk of the course will consist of the preparation, presentation and critique of Audition monologues.

A. At the beginning of each audition assignment the student will select two new contrasting audition selections. The instructors will judge whether each is suitable for the individual student's audition.

B. During each assignment, the student will work with the instructors in workshop settings on audition selections which will be presented to the class twice: once in a preliminary
presentation and then at the end of the assignment. Each presentation will be assigned points/grades.

C. One of the most important aspects of this course is developing the discipline of proper preparation of audition material. It is imperative that each student understand that the process of preparation is as important as the finished presentation. Therefore, audition assignments will be scheduled in a series of graded deadlines for selection of the material, memorization, and preliminary presentation before the graded final presentation. Experience with this course has shown the audition presentations are better when developed over a longer period rather than at the last minute. Your overall grade for this course will be an accumulation of all these grades. Grades for these due dates may not be made up. In the latter part of the semester there will be limited in class prep time for assignments, creating more of a “real world” situation, and demanding more focused and self-motivated work.

D. Audition assignments will vary in type and will include contrasting monologues: classical, modern, comic, etc.

E. Each audition selection should be 1 to 2 minutes in length and memorized. No prose, poetry, films or original material will be acceptable. The student is expected to read the entire text of the play from which a selection is taken, even if the selection originated from a scene book. Students will not be allowed to do a play cutting if they can not find the complete play. Evidence of reading the play will be figured into the grade.

F. Each student will be required to prepare a professional, written resume of his or her personal performance background. Students will be required to submit a rough draft and a final copy of the resume. The rough draft will be reviewed by the instructors for errors, returned to the students, and then must be resubmitted with the final copy of the resume.

G. An important part of this course will be the selection of a transfer institution for study following Casper College. Students will be required to assess five potential schools, of the student’s choice according to specific criteria. They will then narrow the field to three schools.

H. Final Auditions: At the last meeting of the course, each student will present two audition selections. One will be a new scene prepared especially for the final presentation, the 2nd will be from earlier in the semester, and should contrast with the new piece. The students will be asked to do other selections from earlier in the semester; therefore each student must be prepared to perform all of the selections he/she did during the semester. The student’s success will be determined by whether the instructor feels he would hire the student for a hypothetical acting company.

I. Class discussion and Criticism - Participate in criticism of scenes presented by other students. You need to accept such criticism as a help, and feel free in offering advice to others. We are all interested in the development of each student.

J. Daily Work - Throughout the course there will be daily assignments, both written and unwritten which will be graded. These will include meeting selection, memorization and
performance deadlines as well as various smaller assignments made by the instructor. These points may not be made up if missed.

EVALUATION CRITERIA: Students will be graded according to the instructor’s subjective judgment as to whether the student would be hired for an acting job based upon the audition performance of the student.

A. Audition Assignment Grading Procedure.
   1. Regular audition scenes. Each student will receive two grades for each scene, one from each instructor. Generally each assignment has a possible grade of 200 points, therefore each instructor will give a possible of 100 points for each assignment, which will be recorded separately in the grading record. If the instructors happen to disagree on an assignment that disagreement will be reflected in the grading.

B. Because of the practical nature of this course, attendance is essential. Each student will be allowed 300 points for the semester for attendance. 30 points for each absence will be deducted from this total. Three tardies will count as one absence.

C. Grades will be assigned as follows: (Totals are approximate)
   - First audition: 100
   - Four audition scenes (2 pieces each): 800
   - College selection assignment: 200
   - Final audition performance: 300
   - Daily work (Deadlines, Quizzes, etc): 300
   - Written Resume: 150
   - (50 points rough draft, 100 points final) Attendance: 300
   - 2150

D. Grades will be based upon the following percentage scale:
   - 90 - 100.0% = A
   - 80 - 89.9% = B
   - 70 - 79.9% = C
   - 60 - 69.9% = D
   - 00 - 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 possible. Grades will be assigned accordingly.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
- Michael Shurtleff, Audition
- Robert Cohen, Acting Professionally, 6th Edition
- Joanna Merlin, Auditioning

Class Policies:
1. NO LATE WORK will be accepted. Please observe all deadlines listed above or on the Schedule. If you miss an audition you will not be allowed to make it up. Absence from
class does not allow work to be submitted late without permission. If you plan an absence
speak to the instructor and present the assignment before the absence.
2. There will be no alternative assignments given for auditions or any assignment.
3. There will be no extra credit assignments.
4. Classroom rules:
   1. Please do not eat during class. Water bottles and sodas are okay.
   2. Please do not bring (or turn off) cell phones and beepers.
   3. Be attentive to all activities during each class meeting.
5. **REGISTRATION CHANGES:** The Final Date for withdrawal from the course or to change
to Audit Status will be October 28th. This date will be strictly 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.

**THEA 2310: AUDITIONING**

**SCHEDULE OF STUDY UNITS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

**FALL 2006**

**I. General Outline of Assignments:**

Here is a schedule of study units and/or assignments for this semester, along with an estimate of the time
that will be scheduled for each assignment. Each performance assignment will consist of two contrasting
pieces unless otherwise indicated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction</th>
<th>-Audition #1: Introductory-1 selection 1960 to present</th>
<th>1 week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part 1</td>
<td>-Audition process: The Guideposts</td>
<td>3 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part 2</td>
<td>-Audition #2 Modern (1960-present) 1 selection</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
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<td>Part 3</td>
<td>Selecting a college/musical theatre audition</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
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<td>Part 4</td>
<td>-Auditioning in the real world Cohen/Merlin books/Resume</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
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<td>Part 5</td>
<td>-Audition #3 Classical (Shakespeare, Moliere, Restoration)</td>
<td>3 weeks</td>
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<td>Part 6</td>
<td>-Audition #4: Outrageous (One selection)</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
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<td>Part 7</td>
<td>-Audition #5: 20th Century (1880-1960)</td>
<td>1 week</td>
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<td><strong>Final Exam:</strong></td>
<td>-Audition #6: Final during scheduled Final Exam</td>
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Besides the scheduled performance assignments, we will also have assignments in Reading, Research, Resume development, Transfer, and Job market discussions. These assignments will be made in class.

Auditioning Syllabus Schedule

Tuesday, August 29
Course introduction
Audition Preparation Discussion
Assignment: Read Audition, beginning through Guidepost #6. DUE Aug. 31
Select Audition #1 – 1 piece written between 1960 and today. To be performed on September 5.

Thursday, August 31
Watch Shurtleff tapes 1 & 2
Discuss reading, and tapes
Assignment: Read Audition, Guidepost 7-12. DUE Sept. 7

Tuesday, September 5
Perform Audition #1, Discuss Audition #1
Assignment: Find Audition #2, 1 piece, written between 1960 and today which contrasts with Audition #1. These two pieces will be performed together. Found by Tuesday, September 19.

Thursday, September 7
Watch Shurtleff tapes 3 & 4, Discuss Shurtleff and how we will apply these concepts throughout the semester.
Assignment: Read Auditioning by Joanna Merlin, pp. 9-96 due September 21

Tuesday, September 12
Conclude discussion of Shurtleff Discuss the College Research Assignment, which will be turned in on Thursday, October 12, and presented to the class on Tuesday, October 31.

Thursday, September 14
Shurtleff Quiz
Discussion of Stanislavski

Tuesday, September 19
Selection of Audition #2 due
Assignment: Memorize Audition #2, and prepare workshop on September 26 Rough Presentation Oct. 3

Thursday, September 21
Discuss Auditioning pp. 9-96
Assignment: Read Auditioning by Merlin, pp. 97-214, due September 28

Tuesday, September 26
Workshop Auditions #1 & 2 together as contrasting pieces, utilizing the guideposts of Shurtleff.

Thursday, September 28
Discuss Auditioning by Merlin, pp. 97-214
Assignment: Read Acting Professionally by Robert Cohen. Due October 10

Tuesday, October 3
Audition #1 & 2 Rough Presentation
Final Presentation October 12
Thursday, October 5  Workshop Auditions 1&2

Tuesday, October 10  Discuss Acting Professionally
 Discuss Professional Resume
 Assignment: Create a professional resume with the intent of using this resume to transfer to a 4-year program. Rough draft due Oct. 17.

Thursday, October 12  Final Presentation of Auditions 1&2
 Discuss Musical Theatre Auditions
 Assignment: Find Musical Theatre Audition pieces, Due October 19

Tuesday, October 17  Professional Resume Rough Draft Due
 Discuss Musical Theatre Audition selections

Thursday, October 19  Approve Musical Theatre Selections
 Workshop Musical Theatre Selections
 Final Presentation of Musical Theatre Selections October 26
 College Research Written Assignment Due
 College Research Presentations October 31

Tuesday, October 24  Fall Break, NO CLASS

Thursday, October 26  Musical Theatre selections Final Presentation
 Discuss Classical Auditions – 2 contrasting Pieces
 Return College Research Written materials
 Assignment: Find 2 contrasting Classical pieces. One must be Shakespeare. Due November 2
 Rough presentation November 7
 Final presentation November 14

Tuesday, October 31  College Research presentations

Thursday, November 2  Classical audition selections (#3) due
 Workshop Classical pieces

Tuesday, November 7  Rough presentation of Audition #3

Thursday, November 9  Workshop Audition #3

Tuesday, November 14  final Presentation of Audition #3
 Discuss Outrageous audition
 Assignment: Find One Outrageous selection (Audition #4) Due November 16
 Rough presentation November 28
 Final presentation November 30
Thursday, November 16  Outrageous selections due
Workshop Outrageous selection

Tuesday, November 21  Workshop Outrageous selections

Thursday, November 23  Thanksgiving, NO CLASS

Tuesday, November 28  Rough Presentation of Audition #4
Assignment: Find 2 contrasting selection from the period of 1890-1950, Due December 5

Thursday, November 30  Final Presentation of Audition #4

Tuesday, December 5  Audition #5 selections due
Rough presentation of Audition #5 December 12
Final presentation of Audition #5 December 14

Assignment: Find and Prepare Final Audition piece, to contrast with any single piece you have presented during the semester. This will not be approved, nor will it be worked in class. It will be due at performance level at the final.

Thursday, December 7  Workshop Audition #5

Tuesday, December 12  Rough Presentation of Audition #5
Assignment: turn in a list of all the pieces that you have presented during the semester. Due December 14

Thursday, December 14  Final Performance of Audition #5
Turn in list of all the pieces you have presented during the semester

Final Exam will be announced at the time designated by the institution. You will be required to present a new piece with any piece you have worked on during the semester. Make sure they contrast. Be prepared to present, at the instructors’ request, any piece that you have worked on during the semester.

Zip 2: FA06
THEA 2310
8/28/06