Semester/Year: SPRING 2016

Lecture Hours: 3    Lab Hours: N/A    Credit Hours: 3

Class Time: See below    Days: See below    Room: N/A

Instructor’s Name: Zachary Schneider, M.A.

Contact Information: Leave a message if not in, or email. Office Phone: 307-267-1793    Email: zacharyschneider@caspercollege.edu

Office Hours: Virtual Office Hours: Mondays 8 to 10 p.m. or by appointment.

Course Description: Designed to stimulate an interest in and appreciation of the role of the theatre in the modern world including a survey of major theatrical periods from the Golden Age of Greece into the 20th century, a study of the effective evaluation of theatrical performance, and the modern business of theatre.

Statement of Prerequisites: N/A

Goal: To give students a general understanding of theatre, its performance techniques, history and dramatic texts.

Outcomes: Students will demonstrate effective oral and written communication and demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures and historical perspectives.

Course Objectives: Students will be expected to express their understanding of the material by means of online discussion, written assignments, and examinations.

Methodology: As the course is being taught online, Powerpoint presentations, live chat, discussion groups, attendance at performances, and independent research constitute the methodology.

Evaluation Criteria: Powerpoint lectures providing the background for the reading will be available at the Moodle site. Students should view the lectures and read the corresponding material in The Essential Theatre, 10th Enhanced Ed. Questions for discussion will be posted on our blog. Students are expected to respond to the questions and comment on each other’s remarks. On Monday of each week, a quiz will be opened on the play and lecture material. The quiz window will end on Friday of that week. Live Chat: Please let me know what range of times you are available to chat in real time with me at least four times during the term. This is a good opportunity to engage directly with the instructor and ask questions about any aspect of the course. At Midterm and Finals, students will submit essays based on prompts provided by the instructor. Students also are required to attend at least one of the Department’s productions and write a brief response paper describing their experience.

Quizzes: 140 points (14 quizzes, 10 points each)
Discussion Participation: 140 points (14 weeks of discussion, two posts per week, 5 points per post)  
Live Chat Participation: 20 points (4 sessions, 5 points each)  
Independent Play Readings: 100 points (2 plays, 50 points each)  
Attendance at Performance/Response Paper: 10 points  
Midterm and Final: 200 points (100 points each)  
Total: 600 points

Casper College may collect samples of student work demonstrating achievement of the above outcomes. Any personally identifying information will be removed from student work.

Required Text, Readings, and Materials: *The Essential Theatre, 10th Enhanced Ed.* By Oscar G. Brockett & Robert J. Ball (Available in Casper College Bookstore and online). Two plays of your choice from provided list (please secure your own copy).

Class Policies: Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade is November 12th. In order to succeed in the course, students will have to engage with the Moodle site several times a week. Although you are free to watch the lectures and comment on the blog at your convenience, certain materials, such as quizzes, will be available on the site for a limited period starting on Wednesdays. Students should also check the site frequently for announcements

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 to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

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 for more information on this topic.

ADA Accommodations Policy: 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 me at your earliest convenience.

15-Week Schedule
*Fall 2015*

**Week 1: Introduction to the Course/Chapter 1**
- The Nature of Theatre

**Week 2: Chapters 2, & 3**
- The Nature of Theatre
- The Audience and Criticism
- The Play
Week 3: Chapters 12 & 13
-Playwrighting and Dramaturgy
-Directing and Producing

Week 4: Chapter 14
-Acting

Week 5: Chapter 4
-Festival Theatre: Greek, Roman, and Medieval Theatre

Week 6: Chapter 5
-Professional Theatre: Elizabethan England, Commedia dell’Arte and 17th Century France

Week 7: Chapter 6
-Romanticism to Realism

Week 8: Midterm due Friday by Midnight
Independent Play Reading No. 1 Due. Email to zacharyschneider@caspercollege.edu any time before the DEADLINE – 11:59 p.m. SATURDAY

Week 9: Chapter 7
-Modernism and Its Effect

Week 10: Chapter 8
-Decentralization and Subsidization

Week 11: Chapter 9
-Contemporary Theatre and Its Diversity

Week 12: Chapter 11
-Theatrical Space and Production Design

Week 13: Chapter 15
-Scenic Design

Week 14: Chapter 16
-Costume Design and Make-up

Week 15: Chapter 17
-Lighting and Sound Design

Week 16: Chapter 10
-World and Asian Theatre

Week 17: Final Exam Due Friday by Midnight
Independent Play Reading No. 2 Due. Email to zacharyschneider@caspercollege.edu any time before the DEADLINE – 11:59 p.m. Friday

Choose one play from each of the following (Playwright/Play) lists:

Independent Play Reading No. 1: Agamemnon by Aeschylus, Oedipus by Sophocles, The Bacchae by Euripides, Hamlet by Shakespeare.

Independent Play Reading No. 2: A Doll’s House by Henrik Ibsen, The Cherry Orchard by Anton Chekhov, A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry, Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller.
Write an Essay Style Paper (2 pages Maximum) that answers the questions below. Clarity, Brevity, Efficiency.  
Please remember to translate the formatted questions list (below) to essay style answer paper.  
Please remember to edit and proofread – 10% of your grade is allocated to Spelling/Grammar.  

**FORMAT for PAPER.** 2 pages (no more, nor less) Typed, double-spaced, 1-inch margin, Times New Roman, size 12, black.  
It is not expected that you become a master dramaturg. This is an exercise that will allow you to loosely engage in the process. Basic skills of analysis and interpretation, the organization of information, and the ability to distill and communicate your thoughts in a clear and concise manner are the objectives.  

Your work will be assessed (graded) on how well you address the following:  
(in any order you feel most effective):  
- Title of the Play / Playwright / Year it was written / Year of first production.  
  *(If Translated, answer the following)  
    *Translator/Year of translation/Publisher.  
    *What was the translator trying to accomplish/achieve in their undertaking of the translation process?  
    *Why you chose this particular translation over another?  
- Setting (time/place).  
- World of the play (list at least 5 adjectives, ex. Mood, Tone, Atmosphere).  
- Central character (s) (Provide at least 3 sentences concerning each character you list).  
- The basic story of the play (5 sentences maximum, keep it generic, think movie listing).  
- What is the Dramatic Action of the play (the particular struggle of an individual within the action of play, use the word struggle in your answer, keep your answer to 1 sentence)?  
  - What is the resolution of the Dramatic Action?  
  - Why you chose to read this Play?  
  - Something pertinent to the play about the “times” in which it was written.  
  - Something you found of interest concerning the playwright’s life or work.  
  - Why did the playwright write this play?  
  - Why do we still read this play today?  
  - Isolate a theme, lesson, message, or statement within the play.  
  - How does this play educate? How does this play entertain?  
  - What did the play have to offer you, personally?  
  - Did you enjoy reading it? Why or why not?  
  (Answer for the following 3 communities - our contemporary, Casper/USA/World)?  
  - At present, is there a reason to produce it?  
  *(please expand on this answer by addressing each of the following questions either favorably or against.)  
    - Why produce this play? At this time? For this audience?