THEA 1000:01 INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE

Semester/Year: Summer 2006
Lecture Hours: 3 Lab Hours: 0 Credit Hours: (3L, 3CR)
Class Time: 12:00-1:15 p.m. Days: M,T,W,TH Room: KT 118 (selected Fridays)
Instructor: Tom Empey Office: KT 103
Instructor's Contact: Office Phone: 268-2216 E-mail: tempey@caspercollege.edu
Information: It is best to contact me during office hours. Messages may be left with Academic Assistant Arlis Handela – 268-2365 – 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. M-F.
Office Hours: M, W, 2:00-4:00, T, 10:00-11:50, 2:00-4:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to stimulate an interest and appreciation of the role of theatre in the modern world including a survey of major theatrical periods from the Golden Age of Greece into the 20th century. It also includes a study of the effective evaluation of theatrical performance.

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. Discuss some of the production techniques, theatre types, styles, practitioners, playwrights, and conventions of selected periods of theatre history.
2. 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.
3. Discuss the work of some of the practitioners of theatre: actors, playwrights, directors, designers, and technicians.
4. Be familiar with selected theatre genre and the elements of a play.
5. Develop a basic vocabulary of the theatre
6. Evaluate in writing plays and stage/screen productions as assigned.

METHODOLOGY:
1. Introduction to Theatre is largely a lecture course designed to acquaint the student with various aspects of theatre. The class uses considerable video support for the material presented. The instructor encourages student questions and discussion.
2. The course lectures will draw both from the texts 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 study of six styles of theatre in the U.S. today.
   e. A study of writing a theatre “review,” including papers reviewing college productions for this semester.
   f. A review of the types of stages in today’s theatre.
   g. The Greek Theatre including a video viewing and study of Oedipus the King. This section will also review Aristotle’s six elements of theatre.
   h. A review of the Physical Theatres of the Romans, the European Medieval and the Italian Renaissance.
   i. 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.
   j. A review of the jobs of Playwright, Producer, Director, Actor, Set Designer, Lighting Designer and Costume Designer.
   k. Information about attending theatre.
   l. 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.
   m. 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: 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 students obligation to obtain the material elsewhere.

   2. Examinations: There will be four exams worth 200-300 points each. These exams must be completed when scheduled. If the exam is not completed by the scheduled date without permission from the instructor, 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 30-50 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.** Films will not be checked out to students.

c) Class assignments such as short papers, chapter 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. **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.
   b. A review of an assigned Shakespearean film- (150 points)
   c. A review of the college’s production of *Little Shop of Horrors.*

   The last two papers (b & c) **must** be a minimum of three full double-spaced typewritten pages in length. All three papers must use Times Roman font at 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:

   - Attendance: 200 pts.
   - Examinations (four): 850 pts. (total may vary as tests are constructed)
   - Three papers: 450 pts.
   - Daily work, worksheets, film reports, etc.: 400 pts.
   - 1900 pts. (approx. total; actual total may vary either way as much as 100 pts)

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 TEXTS:
A. Tom Markus and Linda Sarver, Another Opening, Another Show, Second Edition
B. Students will be required to see one Casper College production for which you will be expected to pay admission this semester and rent one video of a Shakespeare movie from a selected list.

Class Policies:

1. **LATE WORK:** The instructor prefers to have work turned in on time. However, the instructor will accept work one day late. That is, any work not submitted on the due date must be submitted the next class period. If the student is absent any work due must be submitted the day the student returns to class. Work will not be accepted after the one day grace period. During the Midterm week, and the last week of class and final exam week, work must be submitted on time. There can be no late work those weeks.
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.** Do not work on my assignments during my class.
5. Students will be expected to take all four exams on or before the scheduled date including the final.
6. **Classroom rules**
   1. Please do not eat during my class. Water bottles and sodas are okay.
   2. Please turn off cell phones and beepers including text messaging.
7. **REGISTRATION CHANGES:** The Final Date for withdrawal from the course or to change to Audit Status will be Friday, July 7th 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

SUMMER 2006

M  June 12  Course Introduction; Chapter 1: “What is Theatre?”


W  June 14  Chapters 3: Dramatic Genres; Introduction to Styles in Theatre
             Worksheet due on Chapters 2 & 3.

TH June 15  Chapter 4: Objective Reality; Worksheet due on Chapter 4

M  June 19  Chapter 4: Style in Theatre – Reality-Subjective and Idealized

T  June 20  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, June 27th.

W  June 21  Chapter 13: The Curtain Rises, types of stages (pages 203-222)
            Tour of the Krampert Theatre

TH June 22  Chapter 15: Introduction to Theatre History and the Origin of Theatre

M  June 26  EXAM #1 – Text Act I - Chapters 1-5, types of stages (chapter 15)

T  June 27  Review Exam; Introduction to The Greek Theatre (chapter 15 – pp. 252-257)
            (Worksheet due on Greek Theatre based on text and handout.)

W  June 28  The Greek Theatre and Introduction to Oedipus the King.

TH June 29  Film: OEDIPUS THE KING

M  July 3   INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY

T  July 4   INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY

W  July 5   Finish Film: OEDIPUS THE KING; discussion – Paper #1 due

TH July 6   The Roman and the Medieval Theatres

M  July 10  Introduction to the Renaissance, Italian and English Theatres

T  July 11  Midterm Exam; Review and the Greeks, Roman and Medieval

W  July 12  Review Exam; Shakespeare’s Theatre (chapter 15-p. 260-264)
            (Worksheet due on text and handout)
            Film: William Shakespeare – Life of Drama
"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