***Reedley College***

***Speech 12 – Fundamentals of Interpretation (51943)***

***Spring 2011*** – ***Tu/Th 9:30-10:45 (BUS 40)***

**INSTRUCTOR: Jennifer Graber-Peters Office hours:** via email or by appt

**Phone: 859-6455 (text preferred)**  **Email address:** [rcspeechtwo@yahoo.com](mailto:rcspeechtwo@yahoo.com)

**Last Day to Drop w/Refund: January 21st Last day to drop w/o a “W”: January 28th Final drop date: March 11th**

**Required Text**:

Jaffe, Clella I. *Performing Literary Texts: Concepts and Skills* Belmont, CA: Thompson/Wadsworth, 2006

ISBN: 0-534-62001-9

**\*Additionally: You must have access to the Internet**. Not only are you required to research and select literature, but all written assignments will be turned in using Blackboard. I will NOT accept paper assignments.

**Course Description**:

The course covers the interpretation of literature through oral performance of selected works of literature including poetry, fiction, essays, drama, and children’s literature. Students will be responsible for performing both individual performances and reader’s theatre (A, CSU-GE).

**Student Learning Outcomes**:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze various forms of literature through close critical study.

2. Select and prepare literary materials for public performance.

3. Combine different types of literature to develop complete interpretation programs, project emotion and develop characters through vocal control and nonverbal characterization.

4. Develop a reader’s theatre script and co-ordinate with others in the performance of that script.

5. Perform children’s literature giving attention to the unique skills required for reading to children.

6. Discuss ways to use interpretation in an educational setting with children

**Course Objectives**:

In the process of completing this course, students will:

1. Select and analyze various forms of literature including (but not limited to) poetry, fiction, nonfiction and drama.
2. Create and perform programs of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and children’s literature.
3. Evaluate both professional and student performances.
4. Prepare written analyses of various forms of literature.
5. Work as part of a group, developing and performing a reader’s theatre script.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**Attendance: is required.** Attendance is crucial in a communication course. Not only does attendance count toward your participation grade, but it shows respect for your instructor and fellow classmates. Additionally, regular attendance has been shown to increase overall course grades.

Excused absences are allowed for illness or documented, unavoidable circumstances only. Absences for any other reason may be discussed prior to class. It is *your* responsibility to notify me by phone or email if you will be absent and to make arrangements to get notes and/or turn in the days assignments. A grade of “0” will be assigned if you miss a performance without an acceptable excuse. Work related excuses are not acceptable.

If you are absent, you may turn your assignment in on Blackboard via the Digital Dropbox before the end of the class period. A grade of “0” will be assigned if you miss an assignment without an acceptable excuse. Work related excuses are not acceptable. If you are absent on a performance day with an excused absence, you may be allowed to make up your performance when/if time allows on the last performance day. If we run out of time, you must make up your performance on the make-up day at the end of the semester.

More than 2 days of unexcused absences will result in a reduction of 2 participation points for each additional absence. Any student who misses more than **6** classes will be asked to drop the course. After the first week of class, it is your responsibility to add/drop the course through the proper channels at Reedley College. If you do not, you will receive your “earned grade” at the end of the semester. Please be responsible and “take care of business” so you can avoid problems associated with this issue.

If class will be cancelled, a note will be placed on the classroom door, an email will be sent and/ or an announcement will be posted on Blackboard.

**DO NOT BE LATE**. Excessive tardiness will result in a reduction of participation points from your final grade. If you are late the day of a performance, please wait outside until the speaker has finished. It is rude, inconsiderate, and disruptive to stroll into class during a performance. If by accident you do come in late during a performance, sit down in the first available chair and be very quiet.

**Participation**: In addition to attending class, you are expected to actively participate in all classroom activities and group discussions. Therefore, plan on arriving to class on time and remaining until class is dismissed. Class participation is essential in a course of this nature where we work in groups, pairs, etc. You are expected to listen to both the instructor and your fellow classmates. Rude behavior will not be tolerated. Furthermore, **please turn off all phones or put on silent. Anyone seen texting in class will be asked to leave for the day.**

This also applies to homework, laptops, and any other devices or materials you may have with you. When you are in the classroom, you are here to learn. When another is speaking, your desk must be cleared of all other materials.

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS :**

**Readings**: You will be responsible for all of the readings assigned from the text. Daily reading assignments are posted on the class schedule and **should be read before class**.

**Chapter Quizzes**: There are no exams! Can I get a Woo-Hoo!!! You will take true/false, multiple choice, short answer quizzes. Each quiz will cover information from the readings and lectures and will focus on the previous lessons. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class. **YOU MUST BE IN CLASS ON TIME IN ORDER TO TAKE THE QUIZ.** **No make-ups will be granted for any reason.** If you miss a quiz, you might consider completing an extra credit assignment.

**Chapter Discussion Questions**:

Along with each chapter you will have related questions to answer. Questions can be found on Blackboard under the “Assignments” tab and MUST be answered here. Read and answer all parts of the questions. You should explain your answers in your own words. Please avoid “yes” or “no” answers and do not retype the question. In other words, sound like a communication specialist – use the “jargon” and support your answers with concrete examples. If you want to paraphrase or quote, be sure to document properly. Finally, be sure to use spell-check and grammar check before turning your work in. This is not just “busy work,” but an opportunity to apply what you have learned in the chapters. Answers MUST be submitted before class in order to receive credit.

**Storytelling Performance:** The objective of the first performance is to get you out of your seats and performing. The details and criteria for this performance will be distributed at a later date.

**Children’s Literature Performance:** You will select and perform a children’s story to share with our class. During the performance, you will demonstrate your understanding of appropriate and effective delivery skills. Further details and criteria will be provided at a later date.

**Poetry Performance:** You will choose a poem or song to perform that touches you in some way. Further details and criteria will be provided at a later date.

**GROUP Performance:** Your final performance will be a Reader’s Theatre. You will work in a group and select a scene from a play to perform at the end of the semester. Each group member will have a relatively equal part and students will be graded both as a group and as an individual performer. If one member of your group is absent, you will still perform and they will receive a 0 for their absence. Further details and criteria will be provided at a later date.

**Self-Analysis Paper:** After the Storytelling Performance, you will write a short paper reflecting on your experience during the performance. You will address the challenges you encountered, how this made you feel, and what you might change in the future. This assignment is designed to help you better understand how the performance process works by evaluating your performance from start to finish.

**Peer Critique:** To become a better performer it is important to watch others perform and analyze their performances. You will have the opportunity to critique several other performances this semester, both graded and non-graded.

**Performance Critique Paper:** You will be required to observe a performance outside of class and write a 3 – 5 page paper which critiques the performance, content, and adaptation by the speaker during their speech. This assignment gives you an opportunity to experience first-hand the theories we are investigating in class. After attending you will turn in a critique of the performance. Further criteria will be given out later in the semester.

**Extra Credit**: At various times during the semester, extra credit may be offered, either in class or posted on Blackboard in the announcements. Remember, Extra Credit means “extra work and extra effort.” Absolutely NO late assignments will be accepted. There are NO exceptions.

**Make-Up Class**:Once at the end of the semester you will have the opportunity to make-up a missed a performance. Students who have missed a performance due to an excused absence will have first priority for making it up. After these students have presented, students who have missed a performance due to an unexcused absences will be eligible to make-up their performance. There is not a guarantee that all students will be able to do a make-up. To make this fair to everyone the names of all the remaining students presenting will be put into a hat and randomly drawn.

If you are late you will find the door locked and will miss your opportunity to speak. If you have not missed an assigned performance, make-up day is a free day for you! You do not have to come to class.

**Cheating and Plagiarism**: Cheating and Plagiarism will also not be tolerated in this class. Any act of cheating or plagiarism, whether large or small, will be treated the same. Students who are caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an “F” on the assignment in question, will be reported to the proper authorities, and will be required to drop the class.

**Changes to the Syllabus**: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus throughout the course of the semester. Any changes made to the course syllabus will be done in the best interest of the students. Changes may be announced verbally or online. It is your responsibility to make sure you are informed about any changes that occur.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible.

**Grading Scale**

**Assignment Possible Points Your Grade**

Quizzes (10 @ 20 pts each) 200 Points \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Participation

(in class) 50 points \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(online homework) 100 points \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Storytelling Performance 20 Points \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Children’s Literature Performance 30 Points \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Choral Reading 50 points \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Poetry Performance 100 Points \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Readers Theater/Final Performance 200 Points \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Self Analysis Paper (4 @ 25 points each) 100 Points \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Performance Critique 100 Points \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Peer Critique 50 Points \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Total Semester Points 1000 Points \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_