

CREATIVE DRAMA AND EDUCATION

THTR/EDUC2600

(3 s.h.)

Fall 2006

Instructor: Becky Foster

Office: Shaw 150

MWF 9:00-9:50am, Shaw 142

x5359, rmfoster@graceland.edu

Office Hours: TR 10am-12pm and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Study and application of techniques which enable teachers and group leaders to guide others in imagining, enacting, and reflecting upon human experiences through dramatic activity.

“To educate is to guide students on an inner journey toward more truthful ways of seeing and being in the world.” – Parker J. Palmer, *The Courage to Teach*

REQUIRED TEXT: McCaslin, Nellie. *Creative Drama in the Classroom and Beyond*, 8th ed. (2006) Pearson Education Group; ISBN 0-205-45116-0 paperback.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To understand the theory of creative drama as a developmental tool.
2. To appreciate the distinction between participant-centered and audience-centered drama.
3. To study the various techniques of creative drama and their applications in and out of the classroom, including age appropriateness.
4. To study a variety of educational theories and their applications in the classroom.
5. To effectively link teaching styles with learning styles.
6. To develop a collection of dramatic and educational activities, techniques, and sources appropriate to the student’s career goals.

GENERAL EDUCATION GOALS:

- 2b. To be knowledgeable about the humanities.
3. To develop aesthetic appreciation.
10. To make meaningful connections between disciplines.

This course fulfills the Iowa State Teacher Certification requirement for Creative Drama.

EXPECTATIONS:

1. Read the assigned material before class; be prepared to discuss the topics and participate in exercises based on your reading.
2. Prepare for class with adequate sleep and nourishment. No eating/drinking in class, except bottled water.
3. Arrive on time and maintain concentration and energy for the entire class period.
4. You will often be asked to work in pairs or groups. Make a significant contribution to the group. Choose to be a positive, enthusiastic team member.
5. Learn and practice the art of constructive feedback. Give feedback honestly, and take it graciously.
6. Respect your fellow students and our work space. Leave the space clean and tidy after each use.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: You are expected to complete your own and group work to the best of your ability. Any instance of dishonesty will result in no credit being given for the assignment,

and will be reported to the Dean of Faculty; a second instance will result in a failing grade for the course.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is mandatory. Refer to the attendance sheet for specific information regarding absences and tardies. It is your responsibility to arrange make-up work for excused absences *within seven calendar days*.

DISABILITY: Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require special accommodations in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements.

INCOMPLETES: A request for an incomplete grade should be initiated by the student; however, the instructor may assign an “I” in cases when the student is unable to complete coursework due to reasons beyond their control, or in cases when she deems it the most appropriate grade. Refer to the current Graceland University catalog for the official policy regarding incompletes.

| | |
|--|------------|
| GRADING: Class Participation | 50 points |
| Creative Drama Activity File: 3 @ 10 points | 30 points |
| Educational Theory Presentation | 30 points |
| Educational Theory Response Papers: 4 @ 5 points | 20 points |
| Final Group Project Lesson Plans | 30 points |
| Final Group Project Response Paper | 40 points |
| <hr/> | |
| TOTAL | 200 points |

Class Participation: You will participate in class activities and discussions based on the chapter readings. Some will require outside preparation (locating a story or poem, for example); others will only require active, creative participation. Participation also includes effective partnering/group work in and out of class.

Creative Drama Activity File: For each topic, create at least two activity cards. File them on note cards or in an electronic document. (As you come across activities you like which do not fit into the assigned topics, create new topic areas, i.e. visualization) Extra cards will receive extra points at semester’s end. Your file will be checked three times over the course of the semester.

Educational Theory Presentations/Response Papers: You will participate in a group assigned to present a specific educational theory. You will have one entire class period for your presentation. You will lecture, create and present handouts, and lead the class in activities designed to illuminate your assigned theory and suggest ways in which it can be utilized effectively. You will also respond in writing to the presentations of other groups.

Final Group Project: In small groups, you will arrange to work with a group of children in the community for a total of 90 minutes (two 45-minute sessions or three 30-minute sessions are suggested) during the final three weeks of the semester. You will develop objectives, choose specific exercises and techniques from this course, then create and carry out **lesson plans**. After your sessions are complete, you will write a **response paper**. Specific guidelines will be provided.

The Final Course Grade will be given on a strict percentage scale (90% = A, 80% = B, etc.). No rounding will be done. You are expected to complete the course work as assigned; no extra credit will be offered or accepted (beyond additional activity file cards). You may make an appointment

with the instructor at any time during the semester to inquire about your academic standing in the course.