

THEA 221 Acting I
Three Credits
M/W/F 11:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m.

Instructor: Ben Moffat

Office: Palanakila 138

Office Hours: Mon. and Wed.: 10 am-10:30 am; 12:30 am-1 pm
Tue. and Thur.: 10:45 am-11:15 am

Telephone: 236-9138 (W)

Email: ben517@hotmail.com

Effective Date: Fall 2009

Windward Community College Mission Statement

Windward Community College is committed to excellence in the liberal arts and career development; we support and challenge individuals to develop skills, fulfill their potential, enrich their lives, and become contributing, culturally aware members of our community.

Humanities Dept. Learning Outcomes for the Fine and Performing Arts

1. See the Arts as a necessary and transformative aspect of human experience.
2. Develop an appreciation of the variety of aesthetics.
3. Develop artistic skills and creativity.

Catalog Description

A performance course concentrating on voice, relaxation, body-awareness, and freedom from self-consciousness through theatre games, improvisation, and exercises. Emphasis on ensemble work.

Activities Required at Scheduled Times Other Than Class Times:

Students must see two plays and write about them or use the Service-Learning Option.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, the student should be able to

1. articulate and project the voice well.
2. devise and execute pantomimes and improvisations.
3. explore dramatic scenes.
4. identify, analyze and critically evaluate the technique and believability of dramatic performances

Text: Audition! By Michael Shurtleff

Requirements the Course Satisfies:

AT WCC: AA Degree Humanities Requirement

AT UH MANOA: One of several selections that meet a requirement in several programs

Prerequisites: None

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- a. To increase the capacity for experience by freeing your imagination, intuition and emotions within an atmosphere of honesty, openness and trust.
- b. To work together as an ensemble and as an individual in theatre games and exercises, improvisations, written dialogue scenes and one-person scenes. Through these performance situations, you will begin to understand and explore some of the joys (and pains) that the beginning actor experiences.

1. ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE:

- a. This is a performance course—there will be a minimum of lecture. Most class time will be devoted to participation in class exercises and the preparation and presentation of performance assignments, such as improvisations, monologues, pantomimes, and scenes.

2. ASSIGNMENTS:

a. Written Assignments:

- i. Students will keep a journal of their feelings, thoughts and growth during the semester as a requirement for passing the course.
- ii. Students will analyze and critically evaluate a play viewed outside of class following the GUIDELINES FOR PAPERS handed out by the Instructor; or, instead of writing the paper, the student will use the Service-Learning Option.

b. Performance Assignments:

- i. Besides exercises in class, students will perform a song, the Movement Assignment, and a two-person scene.
 1. The Song. One time only, you will be subjected to what may be your worst fear: to memorize a song of your choice, 2-3 minutes in length, to be sung without accompaniment.
 2. The Movement Assignment
 3. The Two-Person Scene: This piece will be drawn from a play chosen by the instructor.

3. ATTENDANCE:

It is highly recommended that you attend all classes, and you are expected to keep up with all assigned reading. Because theatre is a collaborative and participatory subject, the attendance policy is very rigid and will be strictly enforced. The policy is as follows:

1. You will be allowed three “free” absences during the semester. You may use these absences if you are sick, need to prepare for an exam in another class, or for any of a variety of necessary activities. **It is, however, your responsibility to find out what was covered on the days you missed. Get the notes from another class member and then see the instructor if you have questions. Assignments are still due on the day designated, even if you choose to take it as a “free” absence.**
2. Because of the three free absence policy, **additional absences will not be excused** except in extreme circumstances (such as hospitalization or family death.)
3. Please keep in mind that for each absence above three, **your final grade will be lowered by 5% (half a letter grade.)** Be aware that you can easily drop your grade from an A to a C (or lower) because of poor attendance.
4. Excessive tardiness will affect your attendance record. Three tardies will count as one absence.

4. CLASSROOM ETTIQUETTE

1. Food and drinks (other than water) cannot be consumed in the classroom without the instructor’s permission.
2. Please turn cell phones and pagers to vibrate. Out of respect to your teacher and fellow students, do not answer calls during class. If you are expecting an urgent call, please notify the teacher.

5. SERVICE LEARNING OPTION

1. Service-Learning is a way of using work in the community to enhance your in-class education. You can get more from your education if you find ways to make connections between your academic work and your experiences. Service-Learning can be a valuable and enriching experience. You may discover that you have strengths and talents you didn’t know you possessed.
2. You may request a Service Learning option for this section of THEA 221. If your application is accepted you will work a minimum of 10 hours in a Honolulu area theatre, including WCC’s own Paliku Theatre. Other volunteer teaching or performing activities may qualify; check with the instructor.
3. **The Service Learning Option can replace the Performance Analysis Paper.** You will be required to write a paper (1-2 pages) reflecting upon and analyzing your learning activities and experiences. You may also make a presentation to the class on your experiences.

4. Learning objectives:

- A. Develop your knowledge of the practical aspects of theatrical production, either backstage or onstage.
- B. Develop particular skills in a variety of areas, such as acting, technical theatre, public relations, or teaching a particular aspect of theatre.

5. Possible Tasks and Activities:

- A. Work in some capacity in a production at the Paliku Theatre, or in another theatre on Oahu.
- B. Design lesson plans to teach some aspect of theatre to our class or to other students. Meet with THEA 221 instructor to review lesson plans, then teach the lesson.
- C. Criteria for Grading Service-Learning projects will be worked out in advance with your instructor.

6. GRADING:

- a. Students will be graded on their attendance, and written and performance assignments. You will not be graded on your talent, charm or cleverness, but on you work overall: i.e. your effort, commitment, energy, concentration, willingness to extend yourself, your actor discipline, and finally, the growth that occurs as a result of all these things.

a. Performance Analysis Paper	25 points
b. Movement Assignment	25 points
c. Two person scene	30 points
d. Class Participation, short written assignments	<u>30 points</u>
e. Total points possible	110 points

2. Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A = 110-90 points

B = 89-80 points

C = 79-70 points

D = 69-60 points

F = 59-0

7. OTHER INFORMATION:

If at any time during the semester, you have any questions, criticisms or suggestions, **it is your responsibility** to inform me so that your suggestion can be acted upon.

Otherwise, give it all you've got, and you'll be amazed to discover what joy and pleasure acting can give you.

Note: The physical activities in this class do not present any dangers or hazards to students; however, students are warned that possible injuries may occur if their behavior ignores safety rules and precautions. Students with known physical problems and/or limitations must inform the instructor formally of their condition so that special considerations and/or alternate activities may be planned to assist the students in meeting the objectives of the course.