

THEA 101 Introduction to Drama and Theatre

Three Credits

MWF 10:30 am-11:20 am

Instructor: Ben Moffat

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Office Hours: Mon. and Wed.: 10 am-10:30 am; 12:30 pm-1 pm

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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 knowledge of the history of the fine and performing arts.

Catalog Description

An introduction to the art of drama and theatre. Students study selected plays that are representative of important playwrights and historical periods. These plays are studied in their historical context and provide a basis for understanding elements and styles of drama. Theatre production will also be explored by considering the functions of actors, audiences, designers, playwrights and technicians.

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. Discuss the origin and development of the theatre from its beginnings to the present;
2. Discuss the theatre's influence and importance in human culture;
3. Compare and contrast plays and theatre practices from different time periods and cultures;
4. Analyze the artistic choices and techniques used to transform a written dramatic script into a performed work presented to an audience.

Text: The World of Theatre by Felner and Orenstein

Requirements the Course Satisfies:

AT WCC: AA Degree Humanities Requirement

AT UH MANOA: Fulfills the General Education Core Requirement of Diversification in the Arts. In the College of Arts and Science this course fulfills the Humanities Requirement.

Prerequisites: None

A. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The student will discuss, define, and /or identify the basic characteristics of theatre from its origins to the present. Discussions will help students to analyze and critically evaluate the plays, their themes, characters and staging. Through hands-on activities, students will develop a better understanding of the practice of theatre.

B. EXAMS, PAPERS, PROJECTS AND LAB DAYS:

- a. EXAM—you can earn up to 20 points from one in-class exam, generally a final. The exam covers the material up to that date.
- b. PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS PAPERS—up to 30 points can be earned on two short papers written about **live** plays, operas or dance performances **seen outside of class**. Papers must follow the GUIDELINES FOR PAPERS handed out in class. For your first performance analysis paper you must turn in a draft and receive advice for revisions. For your second paper you may also submit a draft for review, but it is not required.
- c. SCENE PROJECT—you can earn up to 25 points on a project that is organized around one of the scenes written for the playwrighting section of this class. (10 pts. = performance group project, 5 pts. = your written report on what you learned 10 pts. = your written scene.)

You will be divided into groups and will serve as one of the following: director, actor, scene/costume designer, or stage manager. These projects will include a written component. We will discuss this project further in class.

- d. LAB DAYS—10 points can be earned through your participation in Lab Days, which take place throughout the semester. At these times, the class will focus on hands-on projects such as Theatre Tours, Practice on your scenes, Acting Exercises, etc. You will be graded on your attendance at and participation in lab activities and discussions.

- e. CLASS PARTICIPATION AND SHORT WRITINGS—up to 25 points can be earned through your participation in class discussions and your completion of short written assignments throughout the semester.

C. ATTENDANCE:

You must attend all lectures, labs and workshops and 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.

D. 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.

E. 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, 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 points