

**THEA 221 ACTING I**  
**Three Credits**  
**MON/WED 11:30am – 12:45pm**

**Instructor:** Nicolas Logue

**Office:** Palanakila 138

**Office Hours:** M and W 10:00am – 11:30pm; T 11:00am – 1:00pm

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**Effective Date:** Spring 2015

**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 of THEA 221 Acting I:** 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 one play and write about it or use the Service-Learning Option instead.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

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

1. Articulate and project your 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.

**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

### **GENERAL INFORMATION: “What are we REALLY doing here?”**

This class is an introduction to acting technique as it applies to the stage. Your work will be very “hands on,” with few take home assignments. The focus of this class is on work in the classroom, and active participation in games, exercises, and performances will be the basis of evaluation of each student’s grade.

This class is focused on developing the some basic tools of the actor: **physical imagination, concentration, ensemble skills**. Through exercises and activities we shall explore the use of these three tools and their importance in acting technique and storytelling. The relationship of actor to audience will be dealt with in great detail and emphasis will be placed on understanding how to effectively use the three above tools and specific techniques to desired effect.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. You will increase your understanding of human interaction, storytelling and performance by freeing and developing your imagination, learning to use your body language and actions to affect an audience, and harness the power of your voice to convey emotional content and ideas.
2. You will learn to effectively express yourself as an individual in any social situation. You will also learn to step outside of yourself and step into the skin of other characters – this will help you gain an empathic understanding of human conflict, learning to apply in-class exercises to conflict resolution in real life as well as dramatic situations on stage.
3. You will learn to integrate as part of a harmonious ensemble and work effectively with others through exercises, improvisations and written dialogue scenes. Through these performance situations you will also learn to be more effective in social situations. When I am done with you, you *will* be better at winning friends and influencing people.

### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. **PARTICIPATION:** Participating in classroom activities is the largest chunk of your grade. Throw yourself in, concentrate, and you will not only do well, you will enjoy it.
2. **Performance Analysis Paper:** You will be required to attend a performance of a play and critically analyze it, not just as a member of the general audience, but as a performance “insider.” The specific guidelines for this assignment will be handed out by your instructor. If you wish to avoid writing this paper you may avail yourself of the Service-Learning Option instead (see below).
3. **The Song:** Once and once only, you will be required to sing for your supper. You must memorize a song of 30 seconds to 1 minute in length and sing it for us without accompaniment. American Idol, here you come! Fear not! You will not be evaluated on your voice or musical ability – only on your stage presence, commitment and ability to “let it all go!” Just pretend you are in the shower.
4. **The Movement Assignment:** You will be assigned a small individual pantomime in which you must show us a character and a slice of their life. This assignment will be evaluated on your ability to use your posture, gesture, body language, expressions, and actions to tell us as much as possible about your character and their situation. Further instructions to come.

5. **The Bus Stop:** In pairs, you will perform a short (2-3 minute) scene about two distinct and interesting characters at a bus stop. This will be created and rehearsed through improvisation.

### **PUNCTUAL ATTENDANCE NECESSARY:**

There is only one way you can do badly in this class – fail to show up. If you don't come to class you aren't just letting yourself down you are letting your classmates down too.

You will be allowed THREE “free” absences if you are sick or overwhelmed by the tide of life. **No additional absences will be excused for ANY REASON.** Every further absence after your THREE “free” absences will deduct 10 points from your final grade (effectively dropping you an entire letter grade from A to B, or B to C). **SO DON'T WASTE YOUR THREE FREE ABSENCES – YOU MIGHT NEED THEM.** If you do miss a class it is your responsibility to find out what was covered on the day you missed. Assignments are due on the day designated regardless of whether you attend class or not.

For this class, you get one free tardy as long as you arrive in the first ten minutes of class – if you are later than 10 minutes you are officially absent, though the instructor may allow you to take part in class if they like (up to the instructor – they may ask you to leave). **The next time you are late (even if it is just 1 minute late) you will be marked absent.** Plan to be at class a few minutes early so you can warm up and get your mind ready to think and create.

### **LAULIMA – STAYING CONNECTED TO THE CLASS:**

Laulima is a useful way for us to stay connected and a great location for information about assignments, trips to see plays, and extra credit opportunities and other elements of the class. Please check Laulima regularly for updates and please post questions and comments as you need – I will be quick in my response.

### **CLASSROOM ETTIQUETTE:**

Smartphones and the constant invasion of the virtual world upon all aspects of our life are my nemesis and most hated foe. Our class will be a cellphone-free zone – **you will turn off your cellphones and put them in a box as you arrive and take them when we are finished.** Fear not. I promise your texts and facebook notifications will be waiting for you one hour and fifteen minutes later.

- No food or drink (other than water) can be consumed in the class room.
- Respect one another at all times. Any disrespect of your classmates will be wholly intolerated and result in your ejection from class for the day (which will then count as an absence, effecting your grade). The work we do is collaborative, if any of us feel uncomfortable; none of us can achieve excellence.
- Wear comfortable clothing allowing you to run, jump and lie down without restricting or embarrassing yourself. Failure to wear appropriate clothing results in an absence.
- Be aware of your body's limitations. Sometimes I will ask you to do strenuous physical activity, if you suffer from palpitations, consumption, or tennis elbow, I need to know.

## **GRADING:**

You will be graded on your attendance, as well as written and performance assignments. You will not be graded on your talent, charm or cleverness, but on your work overall. Your effort, commitment, energy, concentration, willingness to extend yourself, your discipline, and finally the amount of growth that occurs as a result of all of the above matters most.

1. Performance Analysis Paper	10 points
2. Song	10 points
3. Movement Assignment	15 points
4. Bus Stop Assignment	25 points
5. Participation	40 points
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS=	100 points

Letter Grades will be assigned as follows:

A (Excellent Achievement) = 100 – 90 points

B (Above Average Achievement) = 89 – 80 points

C (Average Achievement) = 79 – 70 points

D (Minimal Passing Achievement) = 69 – 60 points

F (Failure) = 59 – 0 points

N grade indicates that the student has worked conscientiously, attended regularly, finished all work, fulfilled course responsibilities and has made measureable progress. However, either the student has not achieved the minimal student learning objectives and is not yet prepared to succeed at the next level, or the student has made consistent progress in the class but is unable to complete the class due to extenuating circumstances, such as major health, personal, or family emergencies.

## **SERVICE LEARNING OPTION:**

Service Learning is a way of using work in the community to enhance your in-class education. In performance, the best way to learn is to do. 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.

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.

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.

**Service Learning Objectives:** Develop your knowledge of the practical aspects of theatrical production, either backstage or onstage. Develop particular skills in a variety of areas, such as acting, technical theatre, public relations, or teaching a particular aspect of theatre.

**Possible Tasks and Activities Include:** Work in some capacity in or for a production at Paliku Theatre, or in another theatre on Oahu. Teach theatre games for a children's organization. Etc.