

# THEA 101 INTRO TO DRAMA

Three Credits

MONDAYS, TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS 10:45am – 12:20pm

**Instructor:** Taurie Kinoshita

**Office:** Palanakila 138

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 12:30pm – 1:30pm or by appointment

**Telephone:** 779-3456, please text or call any time—do not be shy, I am here to help! (Also, I can respond to texts and calls much faster than emails.)

**Email:** taurie@hawaii.edu

**Effective Date:** Summer 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 101 Intro to Drama:** 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 instead.

## Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the semester, you 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:** Selected Readings provided as handouts by instructor

## 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:

This class is an introduction to the time honored art of theatre, its origins around the world, and the development of plays and productions from antiquity to our present day.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

You will learn to discuss, define, and /or identify the basic characteristics of theatre from its origins to the present. By the end of this semester you will have an in-depth understanding of the basics of theatre and its important role in culture and society. You will also learn the basic fundamentals of storytelling and the importance of narrative plays in the development of the human experience and the development of society.

### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. **Performance Analysis Paper:** You will be required to attend a performance of two separate plays and critically analyze one of them, 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 the paper you may avail yourself of the Service-Learning Option instead (see below. You will still need to see the plays.)
2. **Presentation on an influential Theatre Practitioner or Theorist:** A 15 to 20 minute presentation on an important Theatre artist.
3. **Invisible Theatre Project:** A short sketch performed in public—without anyone realizing you are performing for them.
4. **Participation in Activities, Class Exercises and Discussions:** You will be asked to write, share your thoughts and analysis of lecture topics and in-class readings, participate in class exercises and class discussions.

### **PUNCTUAL ATTENDANCE NECESSARY:**

There is only one way you can do badly in this class – fail to show up. While some of this course is composed of lecture classes, other times you will be working with your classmates creatively as you dive into theatre, write together and collectively imagine stories and plays. Many of the exercises we partake in will require you to work with others. 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 two “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 two “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 TWO 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.

### **CLASSROOM ETTIQUETTE:**

- Phones 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 phone-free zone – you will turn off your phones 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. You may use laptops or other devices to take notes, but only if you are actually taking notes.
- Respect one another at all times. Any disrespect of your classmates will be wholly un-tolerated 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.
- Constantly leaving class for bathroom breaks is not acceptable. Please kindly use the restroom before or after class!

### **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	20 points
2. Influential Theatre Artist Presentation	20 points
3. Invisible Theatre Project	10 points
4. Participation in Activities, Class Exercises and Discussion	50 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 101. 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 one or both Performance Analysis Papers. 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. Design lesson plans to teach some aspect of theatre to our class or to other students. Meet with instructor to review lesson plans then teach the lesson. Other options are possible as well.

### **DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT**

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, [lemke@hawaii.edu](mailto:lemke@hawaii.edu), or you may stop by Hale 'Akoakoa 213 for more information.

### **Assistive Technologies on Campus**

The Assistive Technologies (AT) office in Hale La'akea 232 provides information and services to students with disabilities in order to perform functions that might otherwise be difficult or impossible. For more information contact Ann Lemke at 808-235-7448.

More information on the procedure for obtaining Disability Services can be found at:  
<http://windward.hawaii.edu/Disabilities/Procedures.php>

### **MYSUCCESS at WCC**

At Windward Community College we want every student to be successful. MySuccess is a system-wide effort that seeks to support students early in the semester when they first begin

experiencing difficulty in a class. If I feel that you are having difficulty in my class within the first few weeks of the semester (e.g. missing class, missing assignments, or low test scores), and working together to address your challenges shows that you would really benefit from being connected to resources outside of the classroom, I may refer you to your assigned counselor. Once referred, MySuccess will:

- Send an email to your hawaii.edu account to let you know about my referral; and
- Have a counselor follow-up with you by phone or by email to find out what kinds of help you might need, to connect you with the necessary resources, and to help you devise a strategy for success.

I will not refer you without telling you. However, if I do refer you, know that I am doing so in an effort to connect you with all the help you may need to do well this semester as your success is important to me.

#### **FINAL CAVEAT EMPTOR:**

If at any time during the semester you have any questions, criticisms or suggestions, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor so that your suggestion can be evaluated and acted upon. I am here to help, so let me know if there is a problem in-class that is affecting your ability to work. Also, in life, those of us who show up and express ourselves often find the world is fairly easy to shape to our will and our destinies are ours to command.

*(Art must) "Axe the frozen sea within us"* -Kafka

**"If you are not going forwards, you are going backwards"** -Stanislavsky

"There is no maxim, wisdom, joy, tragedy not found in theatre" "Theatre should instruct, inspire, entertain" "Abhinaya – 'to carry/performance' - performance is carrying meaning to the audience" –Natyasastra 11:16 and 30:31

**"The opposite of courage is seeing the right thing and not doing it"**

**-Socrates (and Confucius)**

"Theatre is a form of knowledge; it should and can also be a means of transforming society. Theatre can help us build our future, rather than just waiting for it."  
- Augusto Boal

## **WHY STUDY THEATRE?**

Theatre is FUN!

Theatre is the only truly social art form: everyone needs to be working their hardest for the best possible show!

Theatre is the only art form which encompasses ALL art forms: visual art (costume design), poetry and literature, dance and movement, architecture, music, and even film!

Theatre relates to virtually every single academic discipline: from psychology to history, from communication and speech to philosophy and religion!

The learning NEVER stops! With each new project you learn something new!

Perhaps you begin working on a play about a physicist? You get to learn about physics for the show! Perhaps you begin working on a play from Ancient Greece? You get to learn about Ancient Greece!

Theatre teaches you discipline and professionalism: you must attend each class or rehearsal—not for the sake of yourself but for the sake of your classmates and fellow actors!

Theatre encourages team-work and ensemble skills: great theatre cannot exist without every single person involved contributing a positive spirit and supporting each other!

Theatre teaches you life skills: interacting successfully in a group and working with others, listening, imagination, confidence, public speaking skills, and more!

Gain an appreciation for the discipline involved in creativity, what it means to work on a team, theatrical perspectives, the art of the actor.

Theatre is about understanding and accepting rather than judging.

Theatre is about faith and trust in the team, the people you work with, the show, and your community.

Theatre is quality over quantity: millions of people may see a film and forget it the next week; in theatre, the connection you make with each audience, each night, is often unforgettable.

The people in your show often become like a second family!