

## THEA 221 ACTING I

(3 CREDITS | CRN: 61203)

INSTRUCTOR: Taurie Kinoshita  
OFFICE: Hale Palanakila 225 (I'm always in 225! Just knock!)  
OFFICE HOURS: W | 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
and by appointment  
TELEPHONE: 779-3456, please text or call ANYTIME—do NOT be shy, I am here to help! (Emails and calls can take up to 36 hrs for a response--texts up to 3 hrs.) Please do not use any other phone number!  
EMAIL: [taurie@hawaii.edu](mailto:taurie@hawaii.edu)  
EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2017

### WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai'i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide O'ahu's Ko'olau region and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.

### CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Acting I: Performance course concentrating on voice, relaxation, body awareness, and freedom from self-consciousness through theatre games, improvisation, and exercises. Emphasis on ensemble work. May be repeated up to 9 credits. WCC: DA

*Activities Required Outside of Class Time:* Students must see two plays and write about one.

### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

*Students will:*

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.

### COURSE CONTENT

*Concepts or Topics*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Ensemble Skills                            | 4. Breaking the Social Barrier         |
| 2. Develop Prodigious Powers of Concentration | 5. Physical Character Styles/Pantomime |
| 3. Evoking the Imagination                    | 6. Improvisation                       |

*Skills or Competencies—Students will:*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Increase understanding of human interaction.    | 7. Step into the skin of other characters to gain empathic understanding. |
| 2. Develop skills in storytelling and performance. |   |

3. Unshackle and free imagination.
4. Utilize body language and actions to affect an audience.
5. Harness the power of voice to convey emotional content and ideas.
6. Effectively express themselves individuals in any social situation.
8. Apply in-class exercises to conflict resolution in real life as well as dramatic situations on stage.
9. Integrate harmoniously and work effectively with others through exercises, improvisations and written dialogue scenes.
10. Win friends and influence people

## COURSE TASKS

1. PARTICIPATE actively and positively in games, exercises and explorations daily in class.
2. ATTEND 2 theatrical performances as a concentrated audience member.
3. WRITE 1 Critical Analysis Paper on one of the two theatrical productions you attended.
4. PERFORM 1 song for your classmates.
5. PERFORM 1 pantomime, using only gesture, posture, body language, expression and actions.
6. PERFORM 1 improvisation based dramatic scene with a partner (this is your final assignment).

### *Points Available*

• Daily Participation	40
• Song	10
• Pantomime	15
• Critical Analysis Paper	15
• <u>Improvised Dramatic Scene</u>	<u>20</u>
TOTAL POINTS	100

### *Grades Available*

A = 90 or above | B = 80-89 | C = 70-79 | D = 60-69 | F = 59 or below

*CR/NC Option:* You must have the official CR/NC form signed by the instructor. You must receive a C or higher to receive credit for the course.

## LEARNING RESOURCES

*No Required Text:* Handouts made available by Instructor

## COURSE POLICIES

### *In General:*

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 largest basis of evaluation of each student’s grade.

### *Taurie’s Incredibly Draconian and Downright Cruel Attendance/Punctuality Policy:*

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 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.

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.

*The Show Must Go On – PERFORMANCE DISCIPLINE:*

In the professional theatre world there is only one excuse for missing a performance – death, and even then you must give two weeks notice. **IF YOU MISS A PERFORMANCE YOU WILL NOT BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE IT UP.** Learning to show up for things in life is one of the most important life skills you shall acquire at college.

*Helpful Resources:*

I encourage you to ask me questions about the class and to ask for clarification at any time. Please ask for help even though you are not sure you need it.

One of the best resources on campus is the **TRiO Student Support Services (SSS)** office, which provides tutoring and a range of other opportunities to eligible students. The contact number for TRiO SSS is 235-7487.

The **Writing Center**, located in the WCC Library and Learning Commons, provides in-person consultations during school hours and email feedback as needed. Contact writing center staff by email at [wccwrite@hawaii.edu](mailto:wccwrite@hawaii.edu). The center’s current hours are posted at <http://www.wcc.hawaii.edu/Writing/>

*Studio Etiquette:*

Our studio space is sacred. We will create and bring about wonders here. To that end, you must leave your other worries and life preoccupations at the door. Do not bring them in this place of play, freedom and creation. 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 with your belongings in a cubby hole as you arrive and take them only when class is concluded.** Fear not. I promise your texts and facebook notifications will be waiting for you one hour and fifteen minutes later.
- No food can be consumed in the studio.
- 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.

- Please use the restroom before or after class starts! (Taking a bathroom break every single class adds up to a lot of missed class time. If you need to occasionally, its no problem—just ask first and keep it to a minimum! Your class partners will appreciate it!)
- 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.

### Emails:

Communicating with students is my top priority. Please check your hawaii.edu account on a regular basis. I will send email announcements to that account only. Instructions on forwarding your hawaii.edu account are here:

[http://windward.hawaii.edu/technology/Forwarding\\_UH\\_GMail.pdf](http://windward.hawaii.edu/technology/Forwarding_UH_GMail.pdf).

Please write grammatically correct emails, using complete words and full sentences (no shorthand, such as “where r u now”). Start with a greeting (Aloha Bob, Dear Mr. Smith, or Hi Lance), and end with a signature (Thank you, Sincerely, or just your name). Get in the habit of writing professionally. This will benefit you greatly in life.

### 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 ‘Ākoakoa 213 for more information.

### **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” “Abbinya – ‘to carry/performance’- performance is carrying meaning to the audience” –Natyasastra 11:16 and 30:31

“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!

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, memory and more!

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 a window into culture and history—through which we can understand our future.

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.

**COURSE POLICIES CONTRACT**

I have read through and reviewed the above Course Policies and the entire THEA 221 syllabus. By signing this document, I acknowledge not only that I understand the policies and requirements of this course, but also that I understand the consequences of not following these policies.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

Preferred Name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone \_\_\_\_\_

1. What do you hope this course will teach you? What are your goals in this class?

2. How can I help you meet these goals?

3. What do you intend to do to meet them?

4. What grade would you be satisfied with in this course? Why?

5. What else would you like me to know about you?

PLEASE WRITE SOMETHING YOU LEARNED TODAY BELOW.