

## THEA 221 ACTING I

(3 CREDITS | CRN: 64497 | T/R 1:15pm – 2:30pm)

INSTRUCTOR: Alex Durrant  
OFFICE: Hale Palanakila 138  
OFFICE HOURS: T/R | 2:30 PM- 3:30 PM or by appointment

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EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2018

### 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

*Required Activities:* Students must see two plays and write about them or use the Service-Learning option.

### 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
2. Develop Prodigious Powers of Concentration
3. Evoke the Imagination
4. Break the Social Barrier
5. Physical Character Styles/Pantomime
6. Improvisation

### *Skills or Competencies—Students will:*

1. Increase understanding of human interaction.
2. Develop skills in storytelling and performance.
3. Unshackle and free the 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 yourself in any social situation.
7. Step into the skin of other characters to gain empathic understanding.
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 poem/song/monologue 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	20
• Attend Performances	20
• Poem/Song	10
• Pantomime	15
• Critical Analysis Paper	10
• <u>Improvised Dramatic Scene</u>	<u>25</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 Web:* laulima.hawaii.edu (log in using your UH username and password)

## 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.

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 **ONLY TWO** excused absences if you are sick or overwhelmed by the tide of life – allow me to be clear – you must be excused. If you fail to contact me and let me know you are not coming, then you are not excused. Every unexcused absence 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 ABSENCE – YOU MIGHT NEED IT.** 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 15 minutes of class and if you let me know you are running late – if you are later than 15 minutes you are officially absent, though I may allow you to take part in class, at my discretion. **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 conjure spirits 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 phones and put them with your belongings in a cubby hole as you arrive and take touch them again 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 or drink (other than water) can be consumed in the studio.
- Respect one another at all times. Any disrespect of your classmates will 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.

### *Emails:*

Communicating with students is my top priority. If I have not responded to your message in twenty-four hours, please email me again.

Please email me from one address only. This will help me to sort and manage my emails effectively.

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.

If you have any problems or last-minute emergencies, email me or leave a voice mail on my \ phone.

### **DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS**

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.

### **TITLE IX**

Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. Specifically, Title IX prohibits sex discrimination; sexual harassment and gender-based harassment, including harassment based on actual or perceived sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression; sexual assault; sexual exploitation; domestic violence; dating violence; and stalking. For more information regarding your rights under Title IX, please visit: [https://windward.hawaii.edu/Title\\_IX/](https://windward.hawaii.edu/Title_IX/).

Windward Community College is committed to the pursuit of equal education. If you or someone you know has experienced sex discrimination or gender-based violence, Windward CC has resources to

support you. To speak with someone confidentially, contact Karla Silva-Park, Mental Health Counselor, at 808-235- 7468 or [karlas@hawaii.edu](mailto:karlas@hawaii.edu) or Kaahu Alo, Designated Confidential Advocate for Students, at 808-235- 7354 or [kaahualo@hawaii.edu](mailto:kaahualo@hawaii.edu). To make a formal report, contact the Title IX Coordinator at 808-235-7393 or [wcctix@hawaii.edu](mailto:wcctix@hawaii.edu).

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Work submitted by a student must be the student's own work. The work of others should be explicitly marked, such as through use of quotes or summarizing with reference to the original author.

Students can upload papers to <http://www.TurnItIn.com> to have papers checked for authenticity, highlighting where the paper potentially fails to appropriately reference sources.

In this class, students who commit academic dishonesty, cheating or plagiarism will have the following consequence(s):

Students will receive a failing grade for plagiarized assignments.

All cases of academic dishonesty are referred to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

### **ALTERNATE CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you are unable to contact the instructor, have questions that your instructor cannot answer, or for any other issues, please contact the Academic Affairs Office:

Location: Alakai 121

Phone: 808-235-7422

Email: [wccaa@hawaii.edu](mailto:wccaa@hawaii.edu)



## 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.