

THEA 220 BEGINNING VOICE AND MOVEMENT

(3 CREDITS | CRN: 64508 | F 4:00pm – 6:30pm)

INSTRUCTOR: Alex Durrant
OFFICE: Hale Palanakila 138
OFFICE HOURS: F 3.00pm – 4.00pm
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

Introduction to vocal and movement techniques to increase self-awareness and potential for self-expression. May be repeated up to 6 credits.

This course is designed to familiarize the student with their vocal instrument in order to improve breath management, articulation, projection, inflection, and quality; as well as develop a greater ability to reflect on their physicality in terms of flexibility, spatial awareness, expression and alignment.

By developing the skills and stamina necessary for effective communication through the use of relaxation and focus techniques, partnering work, group cooperation exercises, trust games, diction/articulation work, cold readings and solo performance, students should leave this course with a greater sense of confidence, freedom, and flexibility in their vocal and physical abilities.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate awareness of personal habits, tensions and methods for releasing them, and physical and vocal preferences
- Execute a wide variety of warmup and performance tools
- Perform pieces with self-expression through vocal and physical choices

COURSE CONTENT

Classes will be active in nature and as such students should come prepared to engage with a variety of physical activities. The activities will require an open and exploratory

attitude from the learners in order to achieve their full potential. Whilst many activities will be teacher led, there will also be certain elements that call for self-discovery and development for the students in an independent manner.

Course Timeline/Content

Week 1&2 - Introductions, Syllabus, Learning Styles, Safety, Understanding our physical and vocal nature, observation and replication

Self-evaluation, Finding true neutral, Tension and Relaxation, Vocal and Physical Preparation. Ridding our self of bad habits

Week 3&4 – **Understanding the Warm Up** Projection, Articulation, Flexibility, Stamina, Strength, posture – how does that change confidence and satus. Working as a group, mirroring, radiate/receive

Week 5&6 – Expression and qualities – physical and vocal. Articulation and projection work. Neutral mask work.

Efforts and Time- weight, time, flow, space

Week 7&8 **Warm up development.** Continued practice of technique. Emotional engagement vocally and physically. Applying technique to text

Week 9&10 – Student led warm ups, Practice with text, continued development of technique.

Week 11&12 - Refining technique & sharing

COURSE TASKS

- A. **Reflection:** Students will be required to complete a short personal reflection on their own physical and vocal habits, tensions and preferences. This will be used to guide the students when considering the creation of their personal warm up routine. The reflection will also be used as a reference in evaluative activities throughout the course to chart distance traveled. Evaluative activities will be guided by the teacher at intervals throughout the course.
- B. **Complete a variety of in-class activities** Students will be assessed on their participation in practical class activities. These activities will be designed with a view to exploring and developing physical and vocal skills. All students will be required to participate fully and openly in order to get the most out of the work.
- C. **Design a Personal Warm Up Routine** Students will create their own physical and vocal warm up routine. It must be constructed with their personal needs in mind based on the reflective work and teacher led exercises carried out in class. Students are encouraged to add exercises of their own creation or found through research of other sources. The students will then lead the class in their own warm up with an explanation of why they developed it in the manner they have done.
- D. **Performance/Demonstration of skills** Students will build up to a demonstration of learned skills through the performance of text. They will be expected to use practiced skills such as diction, projection, expression, clarity, tone, quality and intention. The text can be of your choosing but you will need to be able to demonstrate the above skills and should be appropriate for this purpose.
- E. **Class Observation Log:** If you must observe class due to injury or illness, please use a “Class Observation Form” to guide your written observations in your journal (collected at the regular times).

Points Available

Grading

Each student will be evaluated at the level in which they have enrolled. Grades will be

based upon attendance, enthusiastic class participation, technical and performance improvement, written and oral assignments, and a growing sense of professional behavior appropriate to studio work and the level of the student. **No incomplete grades will be given in technique class.**

Grading Criteria:

A.	Progress in technique	40%
	technical skills	(20%)
	performance skills	(20%)
B.	Attitude and concentration	50%
C.	Written Assignments	10%

The attendance policy will be adhered to, and will affect the result of the above grading procedure. If a student is injured and unable to participate, they may attentively watch class and submit notes taken on class materials to the instructor (using the “Class Observation Form” provided). **If a student is unable to take more than 6 classes due to injury, they will be advised to drop the course.**

Grades Available

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

LEARNING RESOURCES

No Required Text: Handouts made available by Instructor

Course Web: lualima.hawaii.edu (log in using your UH username and password)

COURSE POLICIES

In General:

This class is an introduction to stage combat technique as it applies to the stage, according to the principles of Dueling Arts International’s industry-esteemed guidelines. 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 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 may have three absences. Every further absence after your “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).

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. **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/TEST DAY 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.

Studio Etiquette:

Our studio space is sacred. To that end, you must leave your other worries and life preoccupations at the door. Do not bring them in this place where we will work carefully to create fights for the stage.

- 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. 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 not be 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.
- 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.

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 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, or you may stop by Hale 'Akoakoa 213 for more information.

Please Note: This course takes a tactile teaching approach. Tactile teaching involves hands-on correction by the instructor, and is a valuable teaching aid in assisting the student in understanding aspects of proper alignment, placement and movement concepts during class. Physical contact may range from simple touch to correct alignment to relaxation massage. Students may also be asked to experiment with exercises that involve weight exchange. If this makes you uncomfortable, please notify the professor and appropriate modifications will be made.

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 or Kaahu Alo, Designated Confidential Advocate for Students, at 808-235-7354 or kaahualo@hawaii.edu. To make a formal report, contact the Title IX Coordinator at 808-235-7393 or 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

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.