

## THEA 221 ACTING I

(3 CREDITS | CRN: 64316 | T/TR 11:30am – 12:45pm)

Location: Palanakila 224

INSTRUCTOR: Brandon Hagio  
OFFICE: Manaleo 104  
OFFICE HOURS: Tues, Thurs (1:00pm-2:00pm) or by appointment  
TELEPHONE: 808-777-7186  
Texts receive the fastest responses. Emails/calls may take up to 48 hrs.  
EMAIL: bhagio@hawaii.edu  
EFFECTIVE DATE: Spring 2023

### 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 the Ko'olau region of O'ahu 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, analyze the acting. \*You cannot miss the assigned school play for any reason—there is no making it up.

### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

*As a result of taking this course, students can expect to attain the following outcomes:*

1. Start to articulate and project the voice.
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. ANALYZE 1 of the 2 theatrical productions you attend.
4. PERFORM 1 song (or poem) 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 (or poem)	10
• Pantomime	15
• Performance Analyses	20
• Dramatic Scene	15
<hr/> TOTAL POINTS	<hr/> 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. A simple, small notebook and pen or pencil will be occasionally required. Possible course costs: up to \$15 for tickets for assigned performances

## 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.

### *Brandon’s Super Harsh and Totally Brutal 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 **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. The only exception is providing a **DOCTOR’S NOTE** stating dates when cleared to return and/or dates of medical care provided. Accommodations will be made under this scenario.

### **BE ON TIME!**

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.

Participation is crucial:

If you miss a class, there is no textbook to make up the information. This is why attendance is so important. (A grade basically says, “you’ve learned this much\_\_\_.” If you are not here to do the learning, the grade needs to reflect this.)

Since almost half of your grade is based on “participation”, being physically present in class is not enough. You need to participate!

Participation means following the instructions, working on the exercise or activity, being courteous of other classmates.

Of course, everyone has “off” days. If you need a couple passes (because you feel ill, or for

whatever reason), quietly and politely let me know, and you can sit in the back and watch (about two classes at the most.)

Allowing a pass is completely up to me. (Obviously, if someone is rude, or just stops participating without politely explaining why, or demands a pass, I will ask you to leave the classroom and you will be marked absent. Remember 3 absences = B, 4 absences = C and so forth.) Make every possible effort to speak to me before class starts or during warm-ups. Otherwise, you may lose participation points. (I cannot help if I do not know what's happening!)

#### Non-Censorship warning

Life is not all happiness, sunshine and rainbows. Theatre reflects life. Therefore, sometimes in this class, we will discuss or explore R-rated topics. Since this is college, and not high school, this is normal: education often involves learning about unfamiliar concepts or ideas you are personally opposed to. If anything comes up that you personally dislike, look at it as an opportunity to practice putting aside your own emotions and work on objective critical thinking—another crucial life skill = theatre skill! Actors must seek to understand the character they are playing without judging the character. Historically, censorship is fundamental to oppression. Censorship inhibits education, and destroys tolerance and democracy because it stops people from speaking freely. Our country protects freedom of speech and artists for very good reasons. If you cannot handle R-rated subjects (war, crime, adult language and situations), then this is not the class for you. (These subjects are typical for college...)

\*\*\*IF there is a topic that is just too upsetting, for whatever reason, please let me know so I can adapt and adjust material, as needed. I am here to help so please let me know! (I cannot help if I don't know!)

\*\*\*\*NO LGBTQ+ impersonations or characterizations are allowed (unless you identify as LGBTQ+.) We must be free to explore; however, since this is, ultimately, a class, we must ensure that everyone feels safe! We are free with all other topics, but this one is off limits for people outside of the group.

#### 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 **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 phones and put them with your belongings 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 whatever is comfortable clothing for you (allowing you to run, jump and lie down without restricting or embarrassing yourself.)
- 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.
- Great Actors are always, 100% of the time, Great Audience members. When any of your classmates are performing, show them respect and give them your full attention. This will help with your acting skills and is good for the class as a whole.
- Please use the restroom before or after class starts.

One More Thing!: 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.

### Emails:

Communicating with students is my top priority. If I have not responded to your message in twenty-four hours, please email me again, and feel free to text or call as well. I'm here to help you.

Please email me from one address only – ideally your UH email. 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.

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 Paul), 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, text 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).

#### **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

## 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.