UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I®
WINDWARD
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

THEA 101, Intro to Drama
3 credits (CRN 62172)
Mondays and Wednesdays 11:30am – 12:45pm

INSTRUCTOR: Taurie Kinoshita
OFFICE: Palanakila 225 (I'm always in 225 or 224, just knock!)
(Do not go to Palanakila 138, it's too small to rehearse in!)
OFFICE HOURS (times students may drop in for help):
Mondays and Wednesdays 5:00pm – 7:00pm or by appointment
TELEPHONE: (808) 779 – 3456
Please text ANYtime! Don't be shy, I'm here to help!
Texts receive the fastest response!
Emails and phone calls are ok too, but may take up to 48 hours for a response.

EMAIL: taurie@hawaii.edu
EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2026

HAWAIʻI CONSERVATORY OF PERFORMING ARTS

Hawaiʻi Conservatory of Performing Arts (HCPA) offers aspiring performers in Hawaiʻi an opportunity to receive the same quality training as in top-tier conservatories experienced the world over, with a mission to spotlight local stories and Native Hawaiian content through original productions. If the arts are truly for all people, then a career in the arts must be possible for any person who has the talent and tenacity to pursue one. Equal representation on stage and screen is only achievable if aspiring performers from all backgrounds and populations have access to the infrastructure and skills crucial for booking paying jobs in productions.

WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

'O keia ka wā kūpono e ho'onui ai ka 'ike me ka ho'omaopopo i kō Hawai'i mau ho'oilina waiwai. Aia nō ho'i ma ke Kulanui Kaiāulu o ke Ko'olau nā papahana hou o nā 'ike 'ake akamai a me nā hana no'eau. Me ke kuleana ko'iko'i e ho'ohiki ke Kulanui e kāko'o a e ho'okumu i ala e hiki kē kōkua i ka ho'onui 'ike a nā kānaka maoli. Na mākou nō e ho'olako, kāko'o a paipai i nā Ko'olau a kō O'ahu a'e me nā hana no'eau ākea, ka ho'ona'auao 'oihana a me ka ho'onui 'ike ma ke kaiāulu— hō'a'ano a e ho'oulu i nā haumāna i ka po'okela.

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

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

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. May be repeated up to 6 credits. WCC: DA

Activities Required at Scheduled Times Other Than Class Times:

Students must see two plays, analyze them, and write about one of them. Occasional homework assignments (mostly including video clips for performance analysis.) (You must see BOTH assigned plays, or you will lose ALL the points.)

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

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.

COURSE CONTENT

Skills or Competencies—Students will:

1. Increase understanding of human culture.
2. Develop prodigious powers of concentration
3. Effectively express themselves individuals in social situations.
4. Sharpen critical thinking skills and the ability to analyze objectively.
5. Develop a greater understanding of history and how it relates to the present.
6. Apply in-class exercises and topics to life and the real world.
7. Integrate harmoniously and work effectively with others.

Concepts or Topics

1. Critical analysis of the Fine Arts, especially theatre.
2. Narrative storytelling.
3. Theatrical production elements: design, acting, directing.
4. Theatrical styles and contexts.
5. Critical thinking about current artistic debates.
6. Theatre's unique ability to reflect each specific society it evolves from.

COURSE TASKS AND GRADING

1. See 2 live performances and analyze them	30 points
You cannot miss any of these as they are performances!	
2. Quizzes and written responses	20 points
3. 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.
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.

**** Extra credit points are possible by seeing extra plays (with instructor's pre-approval.) Extra credit points can only be used towards assignments.

LEARNING RESOURCES

No Required Text: Handouts and video links made available by Instructor.
A notebook and pen or pencil for taking notes is required, no digital devices please! (If you write it by hand, you will remember it better!) If you need a notebook, I can bring one! Or, one of those ipads that allows you to write by hand is also good, just no phones or laptops please!

<u>Possible course costs</u>: up to $20 for tickets for assigned performances. *However, students may usher a performance and see it for free. You cannot miss even one of the required performances or you will lose all 30 points.*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<u>*In General:*</u>

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.

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 life (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.**

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 AN ASSIGNMENT DAY OR ASSIGNED 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 50 % 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.) If you are very ill or having some other serious issue, please do not risk your health!!! Withdrawing from the class, being ok with a lower grade, or taking the class at a later date and making up the grade are all options!

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.) Please consider texting me so I know ahead of time. (I cannot help if I do not know what's happening!)

Non-Censorship warning

As we all know, life is not all happiness, sunshine and rainbows. Theatre reflects life. Therefore, sometimes in this class, we will discuss or explore R-rated topics (WW I, Shakespeare, etc.) 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! 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. (well, we used to protect them… sigh…) **There will be R-rated subjects (war, crime, adult language and situations) sometimes raised in the context of history.**

HOWEVER, if there is something that will cause a PTSD effect in you, please let me know ASAP. < I need to know so we can avoid whatever it is! < This is a class and not something you auditioned for and knew the script and situations ahead of time…

****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.

Classroom Etiquette:

Our classroom 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 phone-free zone – **you will turn off your phones and put them with your belongings and take them only when class is concluded**. Fear not. I promise your texts and social media notifications will be waiting for you one hour and fifteen minutes later.
- Please use a notebook for notes, a one of those ipads that you can write by hand with. If you need a notebook, I can bring one for you ☺ (Studies show that most people remember things longer if they've written them by hand; its worth trying ?)
- *Constantly* leaving class for bathroom breaks is not acceptable. Please kindly use the restroom before or after class! (Please let me know if you have any issues with this ☺)
- Respect one another at all times. Any disrespect of your classmates will *not* be tolerated and 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.

The Superhuman Powers of Theatre (Theatre Skills = Life Skills)

Theatre is a paradox. Actors rehearse, but they need to act is if they are experiencing something for the first time. Actors care about the audience liking the show—but when they are onstage, they have to not care and just go for it.

In Theatre and life and this class:

- Be honest, yet be civilized and polite. (Theatre is a Social Art Form, communication is crucial—but communicating with respect and professionalism is equally crucial.)
- Play creatively and have fun with the exercises, yet follow instructions precisely.
- Be proactive and try and solve problems imaginatively, but please ask questions!
- If you don't understand a different viewpoint or idea, try and find a similarity in your own life. (Understanding other perspectives is vital for theatre—and life.)
- The only difference between people who are good at what they do, and people who aren't, is *the people who are good at what they do keep getting better and keep improving*. There's always more to learn—keep learning and never feel bad about not knowing something. *A mistake is an opportunity to learn*! You're here in college to make wonderful mistakes and learn from them and improve continuously. (The philosopher Socrates was considered the wisest man in Athens because he was the only man who admitted he knew nothing!)

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.

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!!!

TRIO PROGRAM

The Federal TRiO Programs are educational opportunity outreach programs designed to motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds. TRiO includes six outreach and support programs targeted to serve and assist low-income, first-generation college students and students with disabilities in progressing through the academic pipeline from middle school to post-baccalaureate programs. Here is their contact info:https://windward.hawaii.edu/trio/

Basic Needs

Basic needs include food and housing, childcare, mental health, financial resources, and transportation. Student basic needs security is critical for ensuring strong academic performance, persistence and graduation, and overall student well-being. If you or someone you know is experiencing basic needs insecurity, please see the UH System Basic Needs website.

Mental Health Counseling

Mental Health and Wellness at Windward Community College counseling services and activities on campus to support students' life goals as well as their academic goals. Information about services can be found at the WCC Mental Health & Wellness website.

LGBTQ+

The University of Hawai‘i system and Windward Community College are committed to building an inclusive community that supports and advocates for all Students, Staff, and Faculty. We welcome all members of our campus community to our campuses: transgender, māhū, and people of all gender

identities. All members of our campus community deserve a work and educational environment free from harassment or bullying based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression. University of Hawai`i Commission on LGBTQ+ Equality at their website: http://www.hawaii.edu/offices/president/lgbtq/ Windward Community College Commissioner: Scott Sutherland, scottjks@hawaii.edu

UH Alerts

The UH Alert emergency notification system alerts the university community in the event of a natural, health or civil emergency. The information you provide will only be used in the event of an emergency that impacts the health and safety of the UH community or the closure of whole campuses. It will not be shared with others or used for routine UH communications or announcements. To sign up, visit UH Alerts website for more information.

Financial Aid

If you are receiving financial aid and are contemplating not completing the course, BEFORE you withdraw, it is highly recommended that you contact the Financial Aid Office at 808-934-2712 or email them at wccfao@hawaii.edu to discuss the impact this decision may have on your financial aid eligibility.

Student Conduct Code

Windward Community College follows the University of Hawai'i Code of Student Conduct which defines expected conduct for students and specifies those acts subject to University sanctions. Students should familiarize themselves with the Code of Student Conduct since, upon enrollment at Windward Community College, the student has placed herself/himself under the policies and regulations of the University and its duly constituted bodies. The disciplinary authority is exercised through the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Copies of the Student Conduct Code are available at the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs or online.

Texting and communication:

Communicating with students is my top priority. To that end, please text if you need to reach me urgently. Texting is the best way to reach me and my preferred method of communication. If you text me, it will take me up to two hours to respond—usually, though, I can respond instantly. Emails and calls are great too! However, due to working non-stop on theatre 7 days a week, emails and calls can take up to 48 hours for a response. If you do email, please try and use your school account! Please don't be shy and consider texting! 808-779-3456

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.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS

The Windward Community College's Disability Student Services Office (WCC-DSSO) is committed to providing equal access to qualified students with disabilities.
If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to participate fully in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist

Counselor, Jodi Asato, to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. The Disabilities Counselor can be reached at 808-235-7472, **jodiaka@hawaii.edu** or stop by the office (Hale Kakoʻo 105) for more information.

TITLE IX

Windward Community College is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these, WCC has staff and resources to support and assist you. To report an incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence, as well as receive information and support, please contact one of the following:

Desrae Kahale, UH System Confidential Advocate
Phone: (808) 235-7393
Email: advocate@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale Kākoʻo 101

Mykie E. Menor Ozoa-Aglugub, J.D., Title IX Coordinator
Phone: (808) 235-7468
Email: mozoa@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale Kākoʻo 109

For more information regarding sex discrimination and gender-based violence, the University's Title IX resources, and the University's Policy, Interim EP 1.204, go to manoa.hawaii.edu/titleix/

"Movies will make you famous; Television will make you rich; But theatre will make you good." -- Terrence Mann

"It is how we face all of the things that seem to be negative in our lives that determines the kind of person we become." --*Archbishop Desmond Tutu*

"Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard."
– Tim Notke

"The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." —Nelson Mandela

"The moment we believe that success is determined by an ingrained level of ability as opposed to resilience and hard work, we will be brittle in the face of adversity." —Joshua Waitzkin

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

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

"Evil is done without effort, naturally; good is always the product of an art"
-Charles Baudelaire

"We're all apprentices in an art form we'll never master" – Hemingway

Imagination is more important than knowledge – Einstein
Its not that I'm smart, its just that I stay with problems longer – Einstein

"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

"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

'OIAI E NĀNĀ MAI ANA NO NĀ MAKA
The literal translation is "While the eyes still look around." Mary Kawena Pukui further explains the saying as: While a person is living, treat him kindly and learn what you can from him.

'IKE I KE AU NUI ME KA AU IKI.

The literal translation is, "Know the big current and the little current. Be well-versed." Those who navigate at sea without modern navigational methods must know every aspect of the currents in the ocean, the winds, the stars, the birds flying out to sea and back home to islands, and much more in order to cross vast stretches of the ocean and reach their destination, following the wayfinding of the ancient Polynesians. The saying is applicable to all of us as a path toward excellence.

A'OHE MEA NANA E HO'OPUHILI; HE MOHO NO KA LĀ MAKANI.

The literal translation is "There is no one to interfere, for he is a messenger of

a windy day." This ʻŌlelo Noʻeau was said in admiration of a person who lets nothing stop him from carrying out the task entrusted to him.

Ōlelo Noʻeau #1870 — KUʻIA KA HELE A KA NAʻAU HAʻAHAʻA.

The direct translation is, "Hesitant walks the humble hearted." Mary Kawena Pukui explains that a humble person walks carefully so he will not hurt those about him. In the Hawaiian dictionary, other words associated with haʻahaʻa are modest, unassuming, unpretentious. So haʻahaʻa includes the two values of humility and lack of arrogance.

ever tried. ever failed. no matter. try again. fail again. fail better.
dance first think later, its the natural order
to be an artist is to fail
you must go on, I can't go on, I'll go on

-- Samuel Becket quotes

National Theatre Institute motto:
Risk. Fail. Risk Again.

Nana korobi, ya oki **(Fall down seven times, stand up eight) - Japanese Proverb**

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 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 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.

"Dare to dance, leave shame at home". (*A'a i ka hula, waiho ka hilahila ma ka hale*")

Aristotle Quotes

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.

"Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives - choice, not chance, determines your destiny."

Stellar Adler Quotes

"You will only fail to learn if you do not learn from failing."

"You cannot afford to confine your studies to the classroom. The universe and all of history is your classroom."
"Your job as actors is to understand the size of what you say, to understand what's beneath the word."
"Emotions aren't doable. Actions are doable, and if you do them correctly, they prompt the feelings."
"Sometimes life beats down and crushes the soul, and art reminds you that you have one"

"You have chosen a field where you're going to be hurt to the blood. But to retreat from the pain is death"
"You will fail. That's great. Here's a secret for you - that's the only way you can learn. Learning has to cost you something. If you fail but learn something from your failure, you will grow."
"If you can't take both sides, it means you can only play yourself."
"The actor must be full of passion. If he's too cool he's better off as the manager of a company, not someone who appears on the stage."
"Acting requires a creative and compassionate attitude. It must aim to lift life up to a higher level of meaning and not tear it down or demean it. The actor's search is a generous quest for that larger meaning. That's why acting is never to be done passively."
"Don't use your conscious past. Use your creative imagination to create a past that belongs to your character. I don't want you to be stuck with your own life. It's too little."

Instructor Bio

Taurie Kinoshita (director, writer, drag queen wannabe) was raised in Honolulu, but spent four years in England, teaching at E 15 Acting School, University of Essex, considered one of the top three acting conservatories in the UK. Taurie has directed over 140 critically acclaimed productions in NYC, London and Honolulu. She holds a BA in Theatre and a Master of Fine Arts in directing Western Theatre. Taurie was awarded the Lucie Bentley Award for Excellence in Acting, the Inouye Award for Excellence in Playwriting, honored with five Po'okelas for directing by the Hawaii State Theatre Council and Best New London, Camden Company in 2010.
Taurie is chair of the Play Development Committee at Kumu Kahua Theatre, Education Director for Hawaii Shakespeare Festival and received the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Award for Excellence in Theatre Education, the Francis Davis Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the Meritorious Lecturer Award, the Kennedy Center Gold Medallion (perhaps the highest educational theatre award in the nation), and with Nicolas Logue the Pierre Bowman Lifetime Achievement Award from Hawaii State Theatre Council. She is most proud of the fact that so many of her students are now wildly successful.

Summary:

Since this is a lot of information, here are the most important basics:

1.) Don't miss class and participate with a professional attitude!
2.) Be courteous, stay focused on the activity, adapt, and when you feel uncertain act confident!
3.) Do not miss the assigned performances (the dates will be announced soon!)
4.) Always ask questions and communicate with me, contact me anytime—I am here to help! (Texting is best and fastest!)

COURSE POLICIES CONTRACT

I have read through and reviewed the above Course Policies and the entire THEA 101 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)