UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I
# WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Ke Kulanui Kaiāulu o ke Ko'olau

## THEA 221 ACTING I
(3 CREDITS | CRN: 62444 | TR 10:00 AM – 11:15 AM)
Location: PALANAKILA 224


| | |
|---|---|
| INSTRUCTOR: | Brandon Hagio |
| OFFICE: | Palanakila 152 |
| OFFICE HOURS: | TR (012:00pm-1:00pm) or by appointment |
| TELEPHONE: | 808-777-7186 / Office: 808-236-9152<br>Texts receive the fastest responses. Emails/calls may take up to 48 hrs. |
| EMAIL: | bhagio@hawaii.edu |
| EFFECTIVE DATE: | Fall 2026 |


## 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 'akeakamai 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 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 one of them or use the Service-Learning option. If an extenuating circumstance does arise, alternate accommodations will be made available.

## 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. PERFORM 1 song (or poem) for your classmates.
3. PERFORM 1 pantomime, using only gesture, posture, body language, expression and actions.
4. PERFORM 1 improvisation based dramatic scene with a partner (this is your final assignment).

*Points Available*

| | |
|---|---|
| • Daily Participation | 40 |
| • Song (or poem) | 15 |
| • Pantomime | 15 |
| • Dramatic Scene | 20 |
| • Critique | 10 |
| 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

## 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** absence 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.

**List of Plays and performance dates that can be seen for critique assignment:**

**(Last Page)**

*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. 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. 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.

**PARTICIPATION VERFIFICATION**

Campuses are required by federal regulations to verify the participation of students in their classes. In accordance with Executive Policy 7.209, all students in the University of Hawai'i system are required to establish "participation" to ensure that they are not dropped from their class(es). Students who fail to participate by the late registration period for a class will be administratively dropped from that class. Students may also be dropped from dependent prerequisite and/or corequisite classes if both courses do not establish participation.

## 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, Roy Inouye, to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. The Disabilities Counselor can be reached at 808-235-7448, wccdsso@hawaii.edu, or stop by the office (Hale Kakoʻo 105) for more information.

## 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 https://www.hawaii.edu/student-basic-needs/

## MENTAL HEALTH COUNCELING

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 https://windward.hawaii.edu/services-for-students/mental-health-wellness/

## 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.

## TITLE IX- SEX DISCRIMINATION AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE RESOURCE

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:

Leslie Cabingabang, UH System Confidential Advocate
Phone/Text: (808) 348-0432 or (808) 341-4952
Email: advocate@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale Kākoʻo 107 (Wednesdays)

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

Desrae Kahale, Mental Health Counselor & Confidential Resource
Phone: (808) 235-7393

Email: dkahale3@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale Kāko‘o 101

Karen Cho, Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Phone: (808) 235-7404
Email: kcho@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale ‘Alaka’i 120

As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator. Although the Title IX Coordinator and I cannot guarantee confidentiality, you will still have options about how your case will be handled. My goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources and support you need.

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 https://www.hawaii.edu/titleix/

## 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.

# SHOW DATES FALL 2026:

**Windward Community College**: windward.hawaii.edu
[Soon to be Announced] (Conservatory Show) 11/06 – 11/15

**Kumu Kahua Theatre**: www.kumukahua.org
The Queen's Will 08/20 - 09/20
Kupua 10/29- 11/29

**Manoa Valley Theatre**: www.manoavalleytheatre.com
Jagged Little Pill 09/10 - 09/27
Peter Pan Goes Wrong 11/12 - 11/29

**Leeward Community College**: leeward.hawaii.edu/theatre
Once Upon One Noddah Time 11/15-16 & 11/20-22

**The Actor's Group**: www.tagtheatre.net
Best Friends Forever 08/21 - 09/06
Eureka Day 10/23 - 11/08

**Diamond Head Theatre**: www.diamondheattheatre.com
Fiddler on the Roof 09/25 - 10/11
How the Grinch Stole Christmas 11/20 – 12/06

**Honolulu Theatre for Youth**: membership.htyweb.org
Anime Momotaro 09/05 Saturday @ 7pm &
09/13 09/20 09/27 Sunday @ 2pm
Joseph Kekua and the Voice of the Steel Guitar 10/10 Sat. @ 4pm
Move! 10/03 Saturdays @ 10:30am & 10/11 and 10/25 @ 2:00pm
According to Coyote 11/07 Sat. @ 7:00pm, 11/15 and 11/22 @ 2pm