

THEA 131 BEGINNING UNARMED STAGE COMBAT

(3 CREDITS | M/W 2:30pm – 3:45pm)

INSTRUCTOR: Kathryn “Kat” Lee

OFFICE: Palanakila 152

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment only

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EFFECTIVE DATE: Spring 2026

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 theatrical unarmed stage combat. May be repeated up to 9 credits.

Required Activities: Students must see at least one play.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will:

- Correctly define stage combat specialized terminology and concepts.
- Execute theatrical fight techniques
- Choreograph and perform staged fights

COURSE CONTENT

Concepts or Topics

1. Safety Precautions in Staged Combat
2. Verisimilitude vs. Realism in Combat
3. Partnering Skills
4. Kinesthetic Control of Body
5. Falls on Stage
6. Contact Techniques
7. Non-Contact Techniques
8. Choreographic Principles
9. Dramatic Playing of Combat/Conflict
10. Selling The Fight

Skills or Competencies—Students will:

1. Apply Out of Distance Safety Measures.
2. Apply Off-Line Safety Measures.
3. Skillfully Employ Eye Contact in Fights.
4. Execute Falls Safely on Stage.
5. Execute Pushes Safely on Stage.
6. Execute Slaps, Punches, Grapples and Kicks Safely on Stage.
7. Compare Verisimilitudinous Choreography with “Realistic” Dangerous Techniques.
8. Sell Pain and Body Disintegration Throughout a Fight.
9. Understand Principles of Effective Choreography.
10. Perform Phrases of Fight Choreography Smoothly and Effectively.
11. Imbue Audience with Sense of Drama During Fight Choreography

COURSE TASKS

1. PARTICIPATE actively and positively in exercises and training in class.
2. ATTEND/VIEW at least 1 theatrical performance as a concentrated audience member.
3. PERFORM 1 or more Instructor-choreographed fight(s) with a partner.
4. CHOREOGRAPH 1 or more fight(s) with a partner.
5. PERFORM choreographed fight(s) with partner.

Points Available

• Participation	30
• Attend/View at least 1 Production (Instructor assigns)	20
• Perform Instructor-Choreographed Fight(s)	30
• Devised Choreography	10
• <u>Perform Self-Choreographed Fight(s)</u>	<u>10</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 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.

Our 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. If you miss even one class session, you may be excluded from further training as you are now a safety liability.

You will be allowed FIVE “free” absences if you have school functions, are sick, or overwhelmed by the tide of life. **No additional absences will be excused for ANY REASON (except COVID-related ones, but I will require some sort of evidence of exposure/positive-testing).** Every further absence after your FIVE “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). This includes school sanctioned field trips and events, family trips, detentions, and any other absence.

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.

If for any reason you can't continue to participate and **sit out more than half of the class period, it will be marked as an absence.** Many avoidable accidents/injuries often happen when students lose focus and “play around” during class OR are not wearing appropriate clothing for exaggerated movement. Please give this art form the respect it deserves by being conscious of your own body's limits, properly dressing for class, and executing technique safely throughout the entire class period.

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.

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.

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 – **you will turn off your phones and put them with your belongings as you arrive and 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.
- 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, affecting your grade). The work we do is collaborative; if any of us feel uncomfortable, none of us can achieve excellence.

- Your “participation” grade includes actively listening during explanations of technique, and performing tasks in class as soon as they are given to you. We have a limited amount of time together to achieve our goals, and disrupting class/forcing us to wait for you is disrespectful to, and steals learning time away from, your fellow classmates.
- Wear comfortable, stretchy clothing allowing you to run, jump and lie down without restricting or embarrassing yourself. I highly suggest NOT wearing low cut tops, skirts, or jeans (seams have ripped in very embarrassing places in the past). **Closed toe shoes are mandatory.** Failure to wear appropriate clothing results in an absence and you may be asked to sit out of class.
- **Please remove all accessories (watches, jewelry, etc.) before class begins and stow them with your belongings.** This is for your own safety, that of your classmates, and of your beloved accessories themselves. Using class time to remove accessories results in a tardy.
- If you want to wear a mask in class, please bring extras – your masks may get sweaty and you’ll want to swap them at breaks for comfort and for better protection.
- 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 voicemail 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. Roy Inouye can be reached at 235-7480 royinouy@hawaii.edu , or you may stop by TRIO 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/.

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.

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 131 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. Do you have any injuries, disabilities, or any other conditions you feel comfortable sharing that may affect your participation in class?
5. What else would you like me to know about you?

PLEASE WRITE SOMETHING YOU LEARNED TODAY BELOW.