

August 2018

*Aloha Parents/Guardians and Students,*

**Welcome (back) to Kalāheo High School for a new and exciting school year!** My name is Erich Smith and I will be your child's AP Environmental Science (APES) teacher this year. I am excited to get to know your child as we explore every aspect of the world that surrounds us. I would like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself. I have taught science in Hawaii for the past twenty years. I like to employ a variety of hands on methods to motivate students to learn. I am very happy to be part of the Kalāheo ohana!

This AP course is aligned with the College Board's goals and course guidelines and is designed to prepare students for the AP Environmental Science exam in May 2019. Students who successfully complete the AP test are eligible to receive college credit for their work. Therefore, this course will be designed like most introductory college environmental science courses. The students will also be required to meet the **General Learner Outcomes**, which include, taking responsibility for their own learning, working well with others, thinking critically, producing high quality work, using effective communication, and using technology effectively and ethically.

This is a **highly interactive** course that will allow the students to learn about the world in which they live and how the choices they and other humans make can affect every aspect of their surroundings. As a laboratory course it is important for everyone to carefully follow directions every time they are given. It is equally important for everyone to be on time and **"ready to learn"** each and every day. I will expect your child to bring all required supplies, to be respectful, and to work hard every day.

Kalāheo High School uses the **JupiterGrades** online grading program that provides 24-hour access to the students' grades for each class throughout the school year. You will be able to access the online program by clicking on the 'Jupiter Grades' tab located on the school website at <http://kalaheohigh.org/> or by going directly to <http://jupitergrades.com>. Please log in and update your e-mail address so that I may send you updates about your child's progress and important reminders. If internet access is not available at home, be aware that students have access to computer labs on campus during lunch and after school.

Please read through the course description, outline, expectations, grading policy, and necessary supplies with your student. When finished, please complete the contact sheet and video permission form and send them back to school with your student. I am looking forward to the *fun-filled, learning-intensive* year ahead of us! Please feel free to contact me if you have **ANY** questions and/or concerns regarding your child's learning and I hope to meet you at the Open House on Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Mahalo,**

Mr. Erich Smith

305-0200 x227    [esmith@kalaheohigh.k12.hi.us](mailto:esmith@kalaheohigh.k12.hi.us)



## AP<sup>®</sup> Environmental Science

Mr. Smith

Kalāheo High School

### Course Prerequisites

The minimal prerequisite for AP Environmental Science is successful completion of biology and chemistry. Any student who meets the prerequisites and is willing to challenge themselves and work hard may enroll in the course.

### Course Overview

My strategy in presenting the course to students is to begin with an introduction in which we learn some of the language that is required for rich discussions about the environment. We will then discuss the earth and how it works as a system, leading into our units on ecology, specifically describing how organisms interact with their world. Our transition unit will be a discussion on human population. The remainder of the course is a detailed study of the impact of humans on different components of the biosphere.

### Text

*Environment: The Science Behind the Stories*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition by Jay Withgott and Matthew Laposata

### Course Outline

#### ***First Semester***

Unit 1: Earth as a System

Unit 2: Evolution and Ecology

Unit 3: Environmental Systems and Ethics

#### ***END OF QUARTER 1 ASSIGNMENTS***

Unit 4: Human Population and Environmental Policy

Unit 5: Soil and Agriculture

Unit 6: Biodiversity and Forests

#### **END OF FIRST SEMESTER: FINAL EXAMINATION – APES Practice Exam**

#### ***Second Semester***

Unit 7: Water and Toxicology

Unit 8: Global Climate Change and Energy

#### ***\*\*APES Mock Exam\*\****

#### ***END OF QUARTER 3 ASSIGNMENTS***

Unit 9: Conventional and Renewable Energy

Unit 10: Waste Management

Unit 11: Minerals/Sustainable Solutions

APES Review



**\*\*AP Environmental Science Exam\*\* - Monday, May 6th at noon.**

## Class Supplies

One bottle of spray cleaner, a box of tissues, or a roll of paper towels  
Pencils, pens, college-ruled notebook paper, etc. (general school supplies)  
3-ring Binder or alternative organization device  
Highlighters (ideally, 2-3 different colors)  
Quad-ruled (graph paper) composition book  
Index cards for unit vocabulary terms  
Lab Donation of \$5.00\*

\* The Science department has a need to purchase perishable items for labs that the department is not able to purchase before school begins or through purchase orders. In APES, these items include, but are not limited to, live plants, live organisms, food coloring, potting soil, and certain foods. The suggested lab donation will be collected during the first two weeks of school and will be used to fund the labs for this course. Your support is greatly appreciated! ☺

## General Expectations



- **BE PROMPT**
  - Be in your seat and ready to participate **before** the bell!
- **BE PRODUCTIVE**
  - Bring **ALL** necessary class supplies each day
  - Put away all electronic devices (cell phones, etc.) **BEFORE** class starts
  - Stay on task and listen attentively
- **BE POLITE**
  - Respect yourself, your classmates, your teacher, our class supplies, and all of our fish ☺!!!
- **BE HONEST**
  - **Trust** is essential in my class. The more **trust** we have, the **better** our class will be!

## Ethical Standards

**Cheating, copying, or plagiarizing any assignment from an outside source or from a fellow classmate at all will result in a zero.** Do not put your friends in the position of receiving no credit for their hard work by asking them to copy their paper.

- *Plagiarism*: an act or instance of using or closely imitating the language and/or thoughts of another author without authorization and without crediting the original author with the work.

## Grading Policy

**A: 90-100%**

**B: 80-89%**

**C: 70-79%**

**D: 60-69%**

**F: 59% and below**

**30% - Formative Assessments**

**-Daily assignments, quizzes, labs**

**70% - Summative Assessments**

**-Multiple choice and  
free response questions (FRQ's)**

Grading is done in two semesters. Grading will not "start over" at Quarter 2 or Quarter 4 with a clean slate. When looking at the "Report Card" on JupiterGrades, Quarter 2 and Semester 1 grades will be the same. Quarter 4 and Semester 2 grades will be the same. The year grade is calculated as an

average of the two semester grades. This methodology benefits and more accurately represents a student's progress since the same number of points is not necessarily available in each quarter.

### **Advanced Placement Program Policies**

#### **Grading:**

Students may be allowed to correct summative assessments, including a rationale, to earn no more than 50% of the points incorrect within one week from the date of the assessment. These corrections must be scheduled and completed with the AP teacher during non-class time.

#### **Late work:**

Late work will only be accepted one class period after the date the assignment is due for students present on the due date. Late work will receive no more than 50% of the original credit for the assignment. Additionally,...

- o For an **excused** absence authorized by the attendance office (via pink readmit slip), the assignment will be due the day you return to school and eligible for full credit.
- o For an **unexcused** absence, late work will not be accepted.

### **Classroom Expectations**

1. Class begins even before the bell. You are expected to be in your assigned seat with supplies ready to go for the day (binder, Question of the day sheet, etc.). **Read the agenda and start your Question of the Day quickly and silently.** You may use your notes for assistance but **NOT** your classmates. These questions will show up on tests/quizzes and are generally released AP exam questions, so use them as a study tool!
2. **All supplies must be put away before you leave the classroom (including binders). Please do not leave a mess!**
3. **On designated lab days, you are required to come to class prepared in *closed-toe shoes*. Wearing shoes is for your protection should any glassware accidentally fall on your feet. I will inform you in advance when your class will be having a lab, so you can plan accordingly to bring/wear shoes on that day. You will not be able to participate in lab if you forget to wear shoes on your class' designated lab day (for safety purposes).**
4. After labs, all equipment must be cleaned and returned to the location it was found, lab area wiped clean, and the sink cleared of debris. Failure to do any of the required tasks will result in a group detention with all lab members assigned to that particular table.
5. Each science room is equipped with a chemical shower and eyewash. These **must not** be used or tampered with unless you are directed to use them by a teacher during an emergency. If a student violates this rule, they will be referred to the Administration for disciplinary action. **The student will also be responsible for payment of any damages that are a result of using this equipment inappropriately.**
6. We are fortunate to be in a renovated classroom, so let's keep it looking that way! Any student caught vandalizing school property will be responsible for removing the vandalism and subject to disciplinary action by administration.
7. In the unfortunate event that you are absent, you will be able to make-up all the work that you missed if the absence is excused. This means you have obtained a re-admit slip from the office for

your absence. You are responsible for checking with me to find out what you missed **during non-class time (recess, lunch, etc.)**. Quizzes/Tests/Labs can only be made up during lunch or afterschool and ONLY with an excused absence.

8. All electronics (cell phones, iPods, etc.) must be put away during class time. According to the Kalaheo School Policy, the teacher shall confiscate any electronics not put away. Any confiscated items will be turned in to the office, and can *only* be picked up by a parent/guardian.
9. **Swearing/Bullying will not be tolerated! It is disrespectful and creates a negative environment... when the room is filled with negativity, no one can learn properly!**

*Additional classroom behavioral expectations may be announced to the students in the classroom as needed.*

### **CONSEQUENCES**

If you **choose** to use inappropriate language or behavior the consequences are as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> offense → Verbal warning to student

2<sup>nd</sup> offense → Detention

3<sup>rd</sup> offense → Parent Contact and detention

4<sup>th</sup> offense → Referral to the office, parent contact, and possible parent shadowing

If at any time you have concerns or questions please e-mail me at **esmith@kalaheohigh.k12.hi.us** and I will get back to you as soon as possible!

***\*\*\*Please sign and return the following pages by Friday, August 10th! Mahalo! ☺\*\*\****

Please sign and return to Mr. Smith by Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018

PLEASE READ AND SIGN ALL OF THE SECTIONS BELOW

\*\*\*\*\*

I have read and understand the APES course syllabus.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Student

\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

.....

I have read and understand all of the lab safety guidelines detailed in the Kalaheo Laboratory Safety Guidelines contract. (These will be shared on Google Classroom and Jupiter Grades)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Student

\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

.....

We may periodically watch curriculum related movies that are PG or PG-13 rated (for example GATTACA). Check one of the following and sign.

\_\_\_\_\_ My child has permission to view PG and/or PG-13 movies in class.

\_\_\_\_\_ My child DOES NOT have permission to view PG and/or PG-13 movies in class.

\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Signature