

Aloha e nā haumana a me nā ‘ohana, and welcome to a new semester—ke ola hou—a fresh start!  
I am thrilled to be serving you!

My name is Michael Oliver and I want you to know that I have a passion for teaching, but even more for learning. Without question, I will have much to learn this year as we continue transitioning into a Mac/Apple platform. I promise to improve my own technological understandings and skills in addition to assisting students with their incorporation of related programs and strategies into class assignments and projects. Hopefully, we can learn from each other.

Let’s consider this year’s school-wide theme: “E Ho‘ohua Mai I Ka Hua Maika‘i”—To bear good fruit. With this in mind, please know that I am committed to providing a wonderful growing and learning environment for our haumāna. There are many goals as we prepare our juniors for successful transitions into their individual academies as well as their role as upperclassmen. As a kula Hawai‘i, Kamehameha Schools Maui espouses the WEO (Working Exit Outcomes) and specific English/language arts content and performance standards to guide our direction and achievement as we strive to be **I**ndustrious, **M**oral, **U**nderstanding and **A**ctive, and also as we strive to meet the high school’s vision of producing “**Hawaiian leaders prepared for college and a global society**”.

This course, *English 11*, will continue to develop students’ skills in reading, writing and oral communication through individual, small group and whole class assignments, projects and experiences. We will analyze the motivation, content and style of significant British and European literary proposals, identify their respective persuasive techniques and consider the connections and relevance for Hawaiian students today, before considering our own Ho’ike Nui (senior project) proposals by the end of the semester.

This course is ambitious with regard to its breadth and depth, and its syllabus encourages students to become self-directed learners as they are required to monitor certain aspects of their learning at home while additional content and skills are addressed in class. **It is expected that all readings and assignments will be respectively completed and submitted on time.** In fact, regular attendance, positive and committed participation in readings, discussions and projects, and consistent submission of thoroughly completed classwork and homework will help to ensure the achievement of our goals, benchmarks and standards of excellence.

While periodic ‘extra-credit’ opportunities may arise, please keep in mind that, in this class, extra-credit is exactly that: *extra--in addition to*. This means that all required assignments and obligations have first been met. (Our extra-credit assignments are NOT substituted assignments for work that has been neglected. Students must first accomplish the required work and meet certain performance standards *before* being eligible for any ‘extra-credit.’) Please do not request extra-credit or extra-work until all required assignments have been successfully completed.

I am optimistic about our future together and am looking forward to developing professional and productive relationships with all of you. Please know that I want nothing more than for all of us to succeed, and that I am available before, during and after school for additional consultation, clarification and assistance if any of us needs it. Please do not hesitate to contact me as I am very approachable and here to serve you who are always welcome.

Facing the future with you,

Mr. Michael Oliver, M.A.

National Board Certified Teacher

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