



Welcome to Papa 'Ewalu 'ōlelo Pelekane / 8th Grade English!

Course Goals:

- Improving analytical reading and successful writing skills.
- Growing in the enjoyment of reading and writing.
- Developing language arts skills that will help with success in high school.

Dr. Nesson's Expectations for Responsible Young Adults:

- Bring have materials ready for class daily (charged computer, Trimester booklet, paper, course reading material, water bottle, etc.); be on time, logged in, etc. for on-line meetings
- By the tardy bell, be seated and reading or working quietly. Begin with Bell Work.
- Computer screens should be closed during many class discussions. We will have designated time for using computers (note taking, activities, reading, etc.), or certain haumāna to serve as computer researchers.
- INDEPENDENT work time is when you may sharpen your pencil or use the bathroom (with a hall pass or permission from your kumu, one student at time).
- Earbuds may be used during INDEPENDENT work time, upon teacher approval. School-appropriate music should be on an easily accessible playlist.
- Submit assignments to Google Classroom or your period's tray ON TIME. Missing work will mean a lowered grade and perhaps missed break time for purposes of completing work.
- Kumu Pet Peeves: Coming to class late, disrespecting peers and kumu, and consistent off-task behavior. If haumāna are overly disruptive, individuals will normally receive one warning before being asked to move seats or leave the classroom.
- Plagiarism will result in a ZERO for the assignment score, whether copied from a peer or any other source, as will all forms of cheating.

Online Learning Expectations

- Log-in on time for Zoom class meetings and be ready with assignment materials. Often we'll start with Bell Work. Check Google Classroom for materials/prompts before the session.
- Be in a space free of distractions; use earbuds with mic if available; dress in school uniform. Tune in and be visible.
- Participate, be interactive and contribute! Help to make learning on-line engaging by keeping up with the material and contributing to conversations.

Abused privileges will be revoked.

Assignments:

- Every day, record homework assignments from the board or Google Classroom into planner. Have it on your desk for a kumu check. Please finish assignments in a timely manner. Talk with kumu if you anticipate a late submission.
- Summative and some formative assignments will also be posted on our Google Classroom. Concerned parents and/or guardians will need access to their child's Google Classroom accounts.
- Students will do in-class writing for Bellwork in Google Classroom or in hard copy. Work on these ongoing entries and have them ready for upload day grade check.



Summative Assignments: (detailed descriptions will be provided on Google Classroom)

- 2-3 significant summative composition projects per trimester, with graded check-ins on student progress
- Usually 1-2 summative “Reader’s Choice” projects throughout the school year

Extra Credit Opportunities (worth up to 3 trimester percentage points each):

1. Each trimester, students may enter a writing contest of their choice for summative credit (determined by the contest guidelines). Submit the website address or a copy of the contest guidelines and application with your work. Your kumu will help with some revision advice and assist with your application.
2. Another option for extra credit is for students to view an age-appropriate movie or theater production and write a 2-paragraph review. Students should first give a brief summary of the story and then choose some aspect of the production to analyze (for example, a character, theme or conflict in the story). Theater or film reviews can be submitted by hard copy or e-mail.

Grading:

We follow the behavioral and grading expectations outlined in the 2020-2021 Student and Parent Handbook.

- Daily class work and homework (“Formative assignments”) = 20% of each trimester’s final grade
- Composition Projects, tests, other projects (“Summative assignments”) = 80%
- LATE summative assignments automatically receive 50-75%, depending on how late they are submitted. If they are one upload cycle late, they drop to 75% of original score. If two upload cycles late, assignments drop to 50% of original score.
- Missing assignments will earn an automatic 0 on KS Connect upload dates, if not submitted by 3pm on upload days.

Please contact me at any time if you have questions or concerns.

Dr. Liam Conway-Nesson
Phone: (808) 982-0432/0400
Email: liconway@ksbe.edu

Return this portion to Dr. Nesson

We have read and agree to the terms of the 2019-2020 English syllabus. (Please be sure to clarify any confusion by asking me!)

Student Name: _____ Period: _____

Student Signature: _____

This student (____ DOES) (____ DOES NOT) have permission to watch the educationally focused media at school; these movies and videos will be rated PG13, TV14 or below.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____