

**NATURE STUDIES
FORM II
2021-2022 SYLLABUS**



Tutor: Joe McCulley

Contact: joseph.w.mcculley@gmail.com

PURPOSE OF NATURE STUDIES II:

We begin with the premise that God is the creator of all Nature, who made heaven and earth *ex nihilo* (out of nothing). The basis of the Scientific Revolution of the 15th and 16th centuries began here, and began to develop an approach to observe and interact with the natural world. In this class at SBH, we continue from the same basis as these great Christian classical scientists, who delighted in the world they observed- for they believed that God reveals himself through Nature, so that to delight in the curiosities and wonders of Nature is to participate in a delight of the divine.

In Form II, we move students from noticing basic aspects of the created order and continue to hone close observation, and attention to detail, all in the context to know, love, and appreciate the world God has made. We do this through two nature walks a week that give an opportunity for students to enjoy the plants and creatures encountered through observation, drawing, researching, mapping, and discussing. Then we spend one day a week inside to focus on a particularity of science (that rotates each trimester) in small readings which we narrate and discuss.

OBJECTIVES:

- Delighting in God's World
- Being able to identify all the major species of trees, shrubs, birds, and insects at the Ulupo Heiau.
- Slowing down and encouraged to really *observe* what they are looking at and not skimming over details. Learning to be thorough, methodical, and careful with their observations.

TEXTS:

- Nature Notebooks- This book is used every day during Nature Studies to keep notes, journal observations, sketch and draw, and map plants in an area. This is an organic book that contains things as various and diverse as what we discover and encounter.

SCHEDULE:

- Mondays and Tuesdays - Nature Walk + Lecture. We walk down as a class to the Heiau. Students will always need to bring the provided Nature Notebook. Students are given a short lecture on patterns of nature from the Christian scriptures. Then they are tasked with different assignments: "Draw a flower today." Or "Find evidences of the change of seasons." Or "Map out this area of the heiau."
- Thursdays and Fridays – Students are given reflection assignments based on the lecture and their own discovery.