

August 2025



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 over twenty-five 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 2025. 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 will use the Infinite Campus program to input and monitor grades. Grades will be updated weekly. If internet access is not available at home, be aware that students have access to computer labs on campus during lunch and after school.

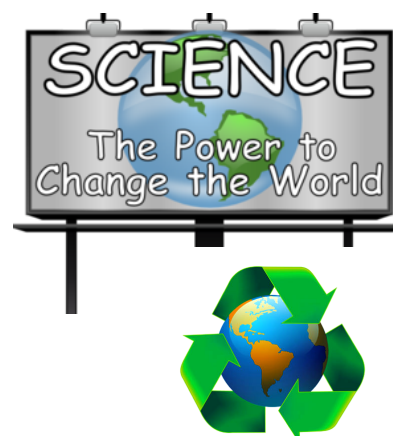
***Communication is extremely important. If a student is struggling with any issues, please let me know and I can make adjustments to assignments and offer assistance.**

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 Thursday, August 14th.

Mahalo,

Mr. Erich Smith

305-0200 x227 Erich.Smith@k12.hi.us



AP® Environmental Science

Mr. Smith

Kalaheo High School

Course Prerequisites

The minimum 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

AP Environmental Science is an interdisciplinary course that focuses on the interaction of human systems and those found in nature. Central themes include energy transfer, interactions between earth systems, sustainability, and interactions between different species and the environment. Numerous hands-on activities will be utilized to facilitate deeper understanding of our world around us.

Text

Environmental Science for the AP Course, 4th edition by Andrew Friedland and Rick Relyea (2023)
Reading the textbook is crucial for a thorough understanding of the course content.

Course Outline

First Semester

Unit 1: The Living World: Ecosystems

Unit 2: The Living World: Biodiversity

Unit 3: Populations

Unit 4: Earth Systems and Resources

Unit 5: Land and Water Use

Unit 6: Energy Resources and Consumption

END OF FIRST SEMESTER: FINAL EXAMINATION – APES Practice Exam

Second Semester

Unit 7: Atmospheric Pollution

Unit 8: Aquatic and Terrestrial Pollution

Unit 9: Global Change

APES Review

Students will also utilize AP Classroom administered online by the College Board for assignments and review.

****AP Environmental Science Exam** - Thursday, May 15th at 8 am.**



Class Supplies

- Please bring a box of tissues, or a roll of paper towels for the lab in the first two weeks.
- Come to class with pen, paper, and a charged chromebook.
- Lab Donation of \$5.00*(cash only please)

* 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



- o **BE PROMPT**
 - Be in your seat and ready to participate **before** the bell!
- o **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
- o **BE POLITE**
 - Respect yourself, your classmates, your teacher, our class supplies, and all of our fish ☺!!!
- o **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 without an option for make up. 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, labs, quizzes

70% - Summative Assessments

-Multiple choice and

free response question (FRQ's) tests

-Formal Lab Reports-(1 per semester)

"Grading is done in two semesters. Grading will not "start over" at Quarter 2 or Quarter 4. 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."

Advanced Placement Program Policies

Grading:

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

Late Work*:

If the student is present in class when work is due and does not hand in the work, late work will receive no more than 50% of the original credit for the assignment. Late work will only be accepted TWO CALENDAR days after the date the assignment was due.

For an **unexcused** absence, late work will not be accepted. For an **excused** absence authorized by the attendance office, the assignment will be due the next class day and eligible for full credit.

*Kalaheo AP Policy subject to change at the committee's discretion

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 Bellwork quickly and silently.** You may use your notes for assistance but **NOT** your classmates. These questions will often show up on tests/quizzes.
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.

6. 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, student assistance.)**. Quizzes/Tests/Labs can only be made up during student assistance and ONLY with an excused absence. **Alternate assessments** may be given for tests/labs that were missed. (Short answer/essay exam instead of multiple choice exam. Written papers instead of labs.)
7. All electronics (cell phones, watches, 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.
8. 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:

- 1st offense → Verbal warning to student
- 2nd offense → Detention
- 3rd offense → Parent Contact and detention
- 4th 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 **erich.smith@k12.hi.us** and I will get back to you as soon as possible!

AP Exam

Students need to pay for their AP Exam Fee(s) no later than September 29th, 2025. Failure to pay for AP Exam(s) by the deadline (and NOT TAKING THE EXAM) will result in the student being graded on a regular 4-point (not the 5-point weighted) scale, AND the class being listed as a regular (non-AP) course on the student's official transcript.

*****Please sign and return the following pages by Friday, August 11th! Mahalo! ☺*****

**Please sign and return to Mr. Smith by Friday, August 11th, 2023
The full syllabus is available on Google Classroom.**

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)

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

