**Intro:**

Ladies and gentlemen boys and girls welcome to the class act at Kauai Community College the show that highlights campus happenings that goes deeper with its professors and students so you can hear why this is where you want to be it's that time let's get it on .

**Gary:**

Welcome back to the podcast here KCC with us today is Mary Alexander one of our famous English teachers Mary tell me about teaching English at the campus here

**Mary:**

Well, I'm a very lucky person I get to work with our local students I

usually teach freshman comp which is the basic composition class that most students take and it's a really important class because if you can take freshman comp you can nail pretty much

all the rest of the classes that you're going to have afterward and I try to make my classes interesting by using topics that relate to local students lives and I try to keep it current and relevant.

**Gary:**

The students that I talk to have taken your classes have no question about the fact that you are passionate teacher when you are up in the front of the room what drives that passionate oh

**Mary:**

I think what drives it is that I struggled as a writer when I was in college even though I loved writing I had never taken any classes in it and so every college paper was a mystery I would spend like I would stay up all night and stress out and then when I became a TA at the University of Hawaii at Manoa with the head of composition I sat in on her composition classes and I could not believe what she taught her students that there is actually a way to do this it was not mystical it was just a step-by-step process and I was determined to introduce my students to that as well and so that's what really drives me is I know what it's like to sit there and not quite know how to start or what to say is it fair to say that the straightforward step-by-step process opens the door to being magical and mystical in your writings yeah I don't know what I tell students is I can't promise that you'll love to be a writer after this class but I can

promise that you can approach every other college essay with confidence now you've got a new series of classes or a new set of classes that you're opening up with so at Kauai Community

College we offer two different types of writing classes basically we teach composition classes but we also teach literature classes these are two hundred level electives for students who have passed freshman comma and they transfer to UH Manoa and you H Hilo as diversification literature classes and so the class that I recently developed is a place-based class so all the texts that we'll be reading are based right here in Hawaii and I'm excited because this literature class positions our students as potential experts because they'll be reading about the writers from their own ethnic backgrounds maybe relating to their ancestries from Hawaii's plantation pass or even Native Hawaiian and it's the only class that we're going to be teaching in the literature English department that focuses on writers from right here right now I also teach a literature the Pacific class but that focuses more broadly on literature's of Polynesia Micronesia and what's the third one Melanesia know is that yeah that's it sorry you know it's interesting

**Gary:**

It sounds like these classes are not only great for students who are currently here but anybody on the island who is interested in the literature of the islands would love to come to these classes.

**Mary:**

Yes absolutely I have learned a lot developing these classes and I believe that place-based literature is it relates to our mission statement to serve the people of our island and I think they're fantastic so you're very familiar with the initiative at the college called writing intensive classes and though that sounds a little scary I guess the word intensive says it sounds a little scary but it's really nothing for students to be afraid of great oh no I think students often think writing-intensive means that they'll have to do a lot of writing and that isn't the case what it does mean is that your teachers who sign up to be writing intensive teachers agree that they will use writing as a tool to push thought in their classes that is writing as a tool to help you learn the course content if they do give you a writing assignment and they will they will scaffold it that means they'll walk you through the process they will go step by step they guarantee that they will assist you give you feedback provide opportunities to revise and the great thing about taking Wis at Community College is up to three of them qualify you H Manoa so it's great to get some of those requirements out of the way .

**Gary:**

Well Mary I want to thank you for taking time to talk with us it's been a wonderful interview and I enjoyed it.

**Mary:**

Oh, I did too! Thank you,Gary.

**Outro:**

Thank you for listening to the class act at KauaiCommunity College the views and opinions

shared by the host of any guests are solely theirs and do not reflect the feelings or opinions of Kauai Community College as an institution if you enjoyed listening to this podcast with our

professor check out the other episodes with different professors. Aloha!