American Literature Syllabus (2019-20)

School: *Garfield High*

**Garfield High School**

1255 16th Street • San Diego, CA • 92101

(619) 362-4500 ext. 3303

**Teacher**: Mr. Nate Whitsell

**Room**: 303

**Phone**:  619-362-4500 ext 3303

**Email**:  [nwhitsell@sandi.net](mailto:nwhitsell@sandi.net)

**Course**:  AMERICAN LITERATURE 1 & 2

**Course Description**  
This course is designed for students who need to satisfy all or part of the American Literature 1 or 2 requirements. The purpose of this course is to learn the skills necessary to perform well in senior English, college, and beyond - skills like reading comprehension, writing, speaking, critical thinking, and more.. We will accomplish our academic goals by consistently and thoughtfully connecting America’s past to our individual and collective present.

**What do I get out of this course?**  
Within the literary and historical frameworks of America from its beginnings, we will work together with the belief that, “Reading (and writing) is a way to explore personal interests, answer important questions, satisfy one’s need for information (become employed and maintain employment), entertain and be entertained, and build further understanding of the many dimensions of human experience.”

**How is the course organized?**  
We will read and respond to a series of texts that will prepare us to thoroughly and meaningfully address the Essential Questions (provided in each course). We will complete a final project/essay to demonstrate our new-found understanding and display the skills necessary to respond to a writing prompt/task.

**How will I be graded?**

Mr. Whitsell's GRADES:

40% | Attempt/Completion of daily work

30% | Project(s)/Essay(s)

15% | Common Core Standards: READING

15% | Common Core Standards: WRITING

*Note: to earn an “A” you must be an exceptional student. Exceptional students work at home, after school, and regularly go beyond minimum expectations.*

**English Department Attendance Policy**

* 1-5 absences (excused or unexcused) you have the opportunity to earn an A or B.
* 6-9 absences the best you can do is a C
* 10 or 11 absences = D
* 12  = NC (No Credit)
* Note: two tardies = one absence

**Texts**:

*Dealing in Dreams*

*The House on Mango Street*

*The Autobiography of Malcolm X*

*Black Boy Poems*

**Vide Content**:  
Various clips

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Parent Information for: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return.

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Parent/Guardian Name

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Parent/Guardian Phone Number

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Parent/Guardian Email

\*I understand the attendance policy for Mr. Whitsell’s class

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Parent/Guardian Signature

Language spoken by parent/guardian (Check one):

\_\_\_\_ English               \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish            \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_