American Literature Syllabus

School: *Garfield High*

**Garfield High School**

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**American Literature Syllabus**

**Teacher:**  Mr. Peña

**Room:**  304

**Email:**  [dpena2@sandi.net](mailto:dpena2@sandi.net)

**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 and the workplace. We will accomplish our academic goals by consistently and thoughtfully connecting America’s past to our 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 understanding of the many dimensions of human experience.”   
   
**How is the course organized?**

The course is divided into projects.  Each project will have reading, writing, listening and speaking requirements. You will work individually, in small groups, and as a whole class.  
   
**How will I be graded?**

● Attendance— See attendance policy below

● Participation— Be an active student and participate in all classroom activities - effort and individual growth will be graded

● Notebook - Maintain a complete and organized notebook

            o 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   
   
**Resources**  
   
**Essential question:** ​​What is​ America’s Promise?  How do we uphold that​ promise?

**Texts:**

McDougall Littell ​The Language of Literature American Literature Various articles from The NY Times  
**Film:**  
We Shall Remain Forever  
**Presentations:**  
Group “mind mirror” poster presentation  
**Projects:**  
Mandalas  
America’s Promise essay