

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Humanities Syllabus

**Teachers:** Ms. Slater / Mr. Tarbell

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**Grade Level Website:** [7thgrade.newlosangeles.org](http://7thgrade.newlosangeles.org)

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**Course Description:** Humanities is the integrated study of history, literature, language, philosophy and visual arts. In the Humanities curriculum, emphasis is placed on critical thinking, creativity, and rights and responsibilities of the individual in society. Students explore aspects of human nature, roles, behavior and ideals.

**English Language Arts:** Student skills will be measured based on the English Language Arts Common Core State Standards, including Literacy in Social Studies. Students will study the history of societies in the Middle Ages around the world and how those events have affected the modern world, with a special focus on the role of religion in daily life. Students will be asked to consider multiple perspectives of this historical period, citing text-based evidence for their analysis. Our history content will provide a context for students to learn and practice their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills.

**Reading:** Students will be exposed to many different types of literature this year. Specifically, students will be reading several historical fiction novels and memoirs, including “Freak The Mighty,” “Catherine, Called Birdy,” “Night,” “The Alchemist,” “Speak,” as well as many primary and secondary source materials, allowing for cross-curricular connections to both history and English Language Arts. Additionally, students will be exposed to poetry, vignettes and short stories. Once a week, we will focus on specific reading strategies in reading workshop, honing our analytical skills.

### **Writing**

Students will learn English mechanics, such as spelling concepts, grammar rules, and sentence structure, through Daily Oral Language. Each unit will have a written component to the final project, as well as weekly timed writing assignments in class. Students will be given explicit lessons on the skills necessary to complete these compositions and the opportunity to practice these skills in class and for homework. We will use the Writer's Workshop model weekly for self-selected creative writing and journaling.

Students English Language Arts grade will consist of word study and grammar quizzes, reading comprehension assessments, reading requirements, response to literature, responding to a writing prompt, and essays and stories.

### **New LA Assessment Policy**

**Homework:** Homework is assigned on most nights and is graded for accuracy and completion.

**Late Work Policy:** Late homework will not be accepted (unless due to an excused absence.) Homework is assigned nightly and is used in class the next day to monitor understanding and

prepare for quizzes and exams. Projects and papers will be accepted late, but with a 5% penalty for each day late.

**Extra credit:** Students may earn extra credit by doing exceptionally well on projects as determined by the assignment rubric. No extra credit is given on assignments turned in late. Special extra credit assignments are not available. Students will earn their grades based on the regular course work.

**Make-up Work:** Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Students have one school day for each day absent to turn in all makeup work (unless arrangements are made with the instructor ahead of time).

## **Participation and Behavior Expectations**

### **1. Respect for Self and Others:**

- Respect your and others right to learn
- Come to class prepared with materials and completed homework and/or assignments
- Take responsibility for your own actions
- Be responsible to your group during collaborative work
- Apply the "Thumper Rule": If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all.
- Enter the classroom quietly and in control of your body

### **2. Engagement in the Community:**

- Be an active listener (eyes and ears on the speaker)
- Use "Discussion Starters" to respond to others ideas and opinions
- 100% Participation 100% of the time
- Be a willing participant in our learning community
- Come to school in uniform and complying to all dress code specifications

### **3. Passion for Learning**

- Give your best effort on all of your work
- Ask questions
- Express your ideas and opinions in a positive way
- Take risks in your learning! (If it feels uncomfortable, you are about to learn something new!)

### **4. Housekeeping and other procedures**

- Students may only use the restroom after the first ten minutes of class
- Students should only use the restroom during independent or group work time
- Students are NOT to use the restroom during direct instruction (unless it is an emergency, in which case, it is the student's responsibility to make sure they receive any information they missed during their time out of class.)
- Students MUST sign out and take the blue vest when going to the restroom.

## 7<sup>th</sup> grade No-Tolerance Policy

The following are expectations set by **all** of the Seventh Grade teachers:

At New LA, students should learn in a distraction free classroom. The following is a list of items that will not be tolerated on campus or in classrooms.

### Electronics

Electronics must be TURNED OFF by 8:10 and remain OFF until 3:20. If an electronic device is out, without prior permission from the classroom teacher (whether off or on) it will be confiscated and turned into the office. You will not be able to retrieve it until your parent/guardian comes in to speak with Ms. O'Brien.

### Toys/Hats

Any toys or hats will be taken and not given back until the end of the school year. This includes hats that are out, but not on the head (e.g. clipped to belt loop, or in hand.)

### Chewing Gum

If caught chewing gum, you will be given a 5 minute clean-up duty after school. If offense becomes habitual, more serious consequences will occur, such as parent contact or referral to office.

### Food

There will be no eating of any kind in the classroom (unless specified by a teacher). If caught eating in the classroom, you will be asked to throw all food present in the trash. If offenses continue, more serious consequences will occur.

### Norms

The students and teacher will set classroom norms at the beginning of the year. They will be posted and available online on your Humanity teachers website. Failure to adhere (follow) the classroom norms will result in the following:

1. Verbal Warning
2. In-Class Time Out
3. Out-of-Class Time Out (and After School Detention for 10 min.)
4. Referral to Office

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and agree to the syllabus for this course, including the grading policy, class expectations, and discipline:

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Parent/Guardian Signature and Date

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Student Signature and Date