

## *Norwood Public Schools*

# **Senior English, Memoir: Stories of Survival Curriculum Overview**

### **Description (including primary objectives and outcomes):**

This course complies with the Massachusetts Standards through the study of literature, grammar, and composition. The course content includes is designed for college-bound seniors. Students are expected to demonstrate mastery of reading skills and strategies. The curriculum requires students to read critically and analytically and to write in a mature style. Students will also view films, analyzing themes and directors' choices in presenting those themes. Students will become familiar with the genre of memoir, specifically focusing on inspirational tales of survival. Students will analyze the author's approach to the books and discuss the various narrative styles. Through traditional and creative writing assignments, students will contemplate the themes of the books and films. Journeying with the authors through stories and films of adversity, complexity, and ultimately hope, students will consider the universality of the desire and impulse to survive. Books are chosen to broaden students' understanding of current events and to consider the lives of those who are affected by those events. Mission statement expectations A1, A2, and A5 will be addressed.

### **Learning Experiences:**

#### **Writing**

- Journals
- Reflections
- Essays
- Reviews

#### **Reading**

- Discuss, analyze, and respond to memoirs
- Discuss, analyze, and respond to films
- Discuss, analyze, and respond to non-fiction, developing background information for reading

#### **Speaking and Listening**

- Socratic seminars
- Oral readings
- Informal presentations

#### **Content Outline**

- Student writing: formal and informal
- Class Notebooks
- Literary terms
- Vocabulary

#### **Resources Used**

- *A Boy Soldier: A Long Way Gone, Pursuit of Happiness, The Blind Side, Lost Boys of Sudan*
- *Various films*
- Online resources

As of 15 May 2012