**IDH 3931: *Home Culture, Identity, and Schooling***  
Thursday --- P 9 (4:05-4:55) --- LIT 0117

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**Course Description**

The course will use Sherman Alexie’s *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* to analyze how culture and heritage shape schooling experiences in the United States. We will discuss both the content of the novel and the form, as the book uses first person narration with illustrations. We will also analyze how our own personal histories have molded our experiences in school both K-12 and postsecondary. This course counts as one credit.

**Assignments**

Class Participations (40%): Students are expected to attend class and completed the required reading for each segment. Students will leave each class by posing a question or wondering that arose during class. Class sessions will begin by addressing those questions.

Final Project (60%): Students will complete a final project in which they explore and analyze how their own cultural background and family history has shaped their experiences in school and society-at-large. The final project can take many forms: traditional essay, narrative, short graphic novel, set of interviews or another form with instructor’s approval.

**Texts**

1. Alexie, S. (2007). *The absolutely true diary of a part-time Indian*. New York: Little, Brown.
2. Alexie, S. (2011, June 9). Why the Best Kids Books Are Written in Blood.
3. Thein, A. H., & Sulzer, M. A. (2015). Illuminating Discourses of Youth through the Study of First-Person Narration in Young Adult Literature. *English Journal*, *104*(3), 47.

**Class schedule** --- Please note that this is a tentative schedule. Any changes made will be announced in class and via email. I will be presenting at the National Association of Multicultural Education on November 10th. We will have an online component of class during that session. I will explain more in class.

August 25: Introductions October 13: Two articles

September 1: 1-44 October 20: School policies & identity

September 8: 45-81 October 27: Mapping out experiences

September 15: 82-113 November 3: Contemporary issues

September 22: 114-149 November 10: Class is online for this session

September 29: 150-195 November 17: No class; work on project

October 6: Finish book December 1: Project due in class