

DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT

Mr. Saxton
2017-18 School Year
Film as Literature

CHARACTER

COMPETENCE

COMMUNICATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION—

The goal of this class is to give the students critical and analytical language arts skills using film as a form of literature and a form of art. We will be discussing films as literary texts, and how those texts relate to their audiences and production techniques. While there will be some historical elements discussed, this is not a film history class. The class learning objectives are aligned with the Utah State Core Curriculum for 12th Grade Language Arts. Students will be expected to demonstrate critical and analytical skill in reading filmed texts as well as 12th-grade-appropriate skill in writing. Students will learn and be expected to correctly use audio/visual vocabulary. Several papers, assignments, and projects will be assigned during the course of the semester.

GRADING—

Students must take responsibility for their own grades. Each student will receive the grade that he or she has earned. Assignments, tests, and quizzes will be weighted according to the time and difficulty involved. The points that the student accumulates will be figured into a total percentage of the points possible. Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

94% and above = A	74% and above = C
90% and above = A-	70% and above = C-
87% and above = B+	67% and above = D+
84% and above = B	64% and above = D
80% and above = B-	60% and above = D-
77% and above = C+	Below 60% = F

Grades and attendance may be checked at any time on the Skyward internet site by following the link from the THS website. However, due to large class sizes and the time required to read essays, grades may not be updated on a daily basis. Papers often take a while to read and score. Please be patient.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS— (see student handbook for school policies)

All school rules and policies apply in this class. Students will be held responsible for any damage caused to classroom equipment or texts. No food or drink (except water in a clear container) will be allowed in the classroom. **Students should familiarize themselves with the school's electronic device policy.** Do not bring valuables to class. The only items allowed at the desks are items that directly relate to Film as Literature classroom activities.

ATTENDANCE— (see student handbook for attendance policy)

Each student will be expected to be in class and on time each class period. If a student is absent, he or she should check the class website and talk to a classmate to find out what was missed. If there are questions, that student should contact me by email (preferred), by phone, or in person during appropriate consultation times. If a student comes in late, it is his/her responsibility to guarantee the absence is changed to a tardy by leaving a note on the teacher's desk or reminding the teacher in person at the end of class. **If the absence stays on the roll after class is over, it is likely to stay on the roll forever. Students are responsible for any work missed.**

Participation points will not be awarded for time not in class (see below). The hall pass is available for rent. The cost in participation points for using the hall pass will increase if the time outside of class becomes excessive. A deposit (usually the students' phone) will be left with the teacher and will be returned when the hall pass is returned.

PARTICIPATION—

All students are expected to engage in all classroom activities. Participation points will be given for responsible student behavior and, of course, classroom participation. Ten points will be available each day. **At the teacher's discretion, points may be withheld for classroom disturbances, inattention, rule violation, inappropriate behavior, tardiness, or any other lack of participation. Also, any violation of the electronics device policy may result in complete loss of participation for that day.** As this class is participation-based and includes activities very difficult to make up, these points may have a large impact on the students' grades.

Above all, because participation points are earned through participation in the classroom learning activities, they will be withheld for absences (which obviously preclude classroom participation). **Excused absences and school-excused absences are no exception.** An excused absence simply means that the student had a valid reason for being absent. It does not excuse the student from the responsibility to learn or practice the material. Any student who has missed a class, for whatever reason, will be expected to complete an English-related and film-related practice as extra credit to make up the participation points missed. This is no real substitute for the content missed in class, but at least it exercises the language arts portion of the brain, and it's the best I can offer. Because these assignments pale in comparison to the actual classwork, there is a limit of 40 points per term. The extra credit activities and relevant due dates are listed on my website (<http://mistahsaxton.weebly.com/film-as-literature.html>) and may change from term to term. Generally, extra credit (unless otherwise specified on the website) is due one full week before the end of each term.

Now, because I do want to encourage students to participate in their other classes' activities and extra-curricular activities, I often give double extra credit points to make up school-excused absences. **In order to take advantage of this offer, students must submit the extra-credit assignment with a coversheet stating that the absence was school-excused, the exact date of the absence, the teacher or advisor who excused the absence, and a note explaining the specific event or activity which necessitated the absence.**

For medically excused absences, come see me in person.

SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS—

Assignments must be neat, legible, and complete. Assignments that are illegible will not be accepted. Incomplete assignments, of course, will only receive partial credit or be returned to the student for revision. **No-name assignments will be discarded. NO EXCUSES (NOT EVEN COMPUTER OR PRINTER EXCUSES) WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Each assignment will be given a due date. There is no penalty for handing in an assignment early. Late work will be worth only up to half of its original point value regardless of the reason it is late. In the case of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to find out what work has been missed and turn it in on time. Work due on the date of an absence should be sent with someone no later than 2:30 that same day. No long-term assignment (major papers, projects, etc.) will be accepted late AT ALL (not even for half credit) unless arrangements are made with the teacher IN ADVANCE.

Plagiarized assignments will be given NO CREDIT and may result in loss of credit for the class (please see the school policy on plagiarism).

No extra credit or late work will be accepted in the last week of each term.

A final word: at Timpanogos High School, character is expected in addition to academic skill. Maturity, responsibility, and integrity are required from each student. If you (as a student or a parent) have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the school. During class or after hours, please e-mail me at briansaxton@alpinedistrict.org or leave a voice-mail message at extension 117.

Thank you,
Brian Saxton

SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR THE ASSIGNED SIGNATURE SHEET AND REQUIRED PERMISSION SHEET.

Please read the entire document and return this page only (signed).

Student's Name (please print): _____ Period: _____

I have read the terms in Mr. Saxton's 2017-18 Film as Literature disclosure document:

Student : _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): _____

IMPORTANT!

Almost exclusively, this class includes films that the MPAA has rated PG and approved shorts and clips. In order to teach some concepts, however, the class may include films that have been rated PG-13. Possible PG-13 films are listed below.

If you do not want your student to watch these films, he/she will be given an alternate activity (for no loss of credit) to be completed in the media center on the days we view the film. Please mark your preference and sign below. Your student will not be allowed to watch ANY film until this paper is signed and returned to me. (Please understand that we will not be using ALL of the films below. These are films that I have used in the past and I may choose to include one or two this semester.)

I encourage you to find out more about the MPAA and the movie rating system. To find out the reasons behind any film's rating visit the MPAA's website at www.filmratings.com, www.mpa.org, or an independent site such as screenit.com, imdb.com, or ok.com.

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

I do not want my student to view the PG-13 films.

I will allow my student to view the PG-13 films

It depends on the film. (Please mark those you DO NOT wish your student to view.)

The Village (2004)

Silverado (1985)

The King of Kong (2007) edited

O Brother, Where Art Thou? (2000)

Hang 'Em High (1968)

True Grit (2010)

Blackfish (2013)

Gravity (2013)

Captain Phillips (2013)

Arrival (2016) edited

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

Comments: