

## DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT

Mr. Saxton  
2017-18 Semester 2  
Film as Literature

COMMUNICATION CRITICAL THINKING CREATIVITY COLLABORATION  
CITIZENSHIP CHARACTER

### COURSE DESCRIPTION—

The goal of this class is to help students develop critical and analytical language arts skills using film as a form of literature and a form of art. The class learning objectives are aligned with the Utah State Core Curriculum for 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts. **Students will be expected to demonstrate 12<sup>th</sup>-grade-appropriate communication skill in writing, critical and analytical skill in reading filmed texts, creativity in producing original work, and collaborative skill in classroom activities. Students will learn and be expected to correctly use audio and visual vocabulary.** While there will be some historical elements discussed, this is not a film history class.

### GRADING—

Students must take responsibility for their own grades. Each student will receive the grade that he or she has earned. *Practice* assignments will count toward the student's participation points for that day (see the participation section below). **Assessment assignments, tests, and quizzes are not optional. Students must complete all of the assessments to earn credit for the class. Students who miss an assessment will receive an incomplete until that assessment is completed and scored.** Assessment assignments will be given 0 – 4 points according to the following scale:

- 0 = the assignment is missing or doesn't meet the requirements
- 1 = the assignment demonstrates very poor quality or extremely low proficiency
- 2 = the assignment demonstrates the student is not yet proficient in the assessed objective
- 3 = the assignment demonstrates a basic proficiency in the assessed objective
- 4 = the assignment demonstrates a high level of proficiency in the assessed objective

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 Skyward. 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 long 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—**

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 signing in with the attendance office or leaving a note on my desk. **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 or if a film is in progress. Hall pass use should be EXTREMELY RARE.

## **PARTICIPATION—**

**All students are expected to engage in all classroom activities.** Participation points will be awarded for in-class practice assignments and, of course, classroom participation. 2 points will be available each day according to the following scale:

- 0 = did not participate in the day's activities
- 1 = participated below expectations (see explanation below)
- 2 = participated fully in the day's activities

Some students may earn an extra point (for a total of 3 points) for exceptional in-class performance. **At the teacher's discretion, points may be withheld for incomplete practice work, inattention, rule violation, tardiness, or any other lack of participation. Also, any violation of the electronics device policy may result in complete loss of participation points for that day.** As this class is participation-based and includes activities which are difficult to make up, these points 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/film-related practice as extra credit to make up the participation points missed. This is no substitute for the content missed in class, but it at least exercises the language arts portion of the brain and is the best I can offer. Because

these assignments pale in comparison to the actual classwork, there is a limit of 8 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 points to extra credit for 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 (verified through the attendance office), contact me personally.

## **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 TECHNOLOGY (i.e. 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 penalized 1 to 2 points from the score it would have received regardless of the reason it is late unless arrangements are made IN ADVANCE. In the case of any absence, it is the student's responsibility to find out what work was 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.

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

**No extra credit will be accepted in the last week of each term.**

A final word: at Timpanogos High School, citizenship and character are 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](mailto:briansaxton@alpinedistrict.org).

Thank you,  
Brian Saxton

SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR THE 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 websites at [www.filmratings.com](http://www.filmratings.com), [www.mpa.org](http://www.mpa.org), or an independent site such as [screenit.com](http://screenit.com), [imdb.com](http://imdb.com), or [ok.com](http://ok.com).

PLEASE CHECK ONLY ONE:

- I will allow my student to view the PG-13 films.
- I do not want my student to view any of the PG-13 films.
- I want to select which films I don't want my student to watch.  
(Please check any film below you DO NOT want your student to see.)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>The Village</u> (2004)                | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>True Grit</u> (2010)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Silverado</u> (1985)                  | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Blackfish</u> (2013)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>The King of Kong</u> (2007) edited    | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Gravity</u> (2013)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>O Brother, Where Art Thou?</u> (2000) | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Captain Phillips</u> (2013) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Hang 'Em High</u> (1968)              | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Arrival</u> (2016) edited   |

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: