

## DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT

Mr. Saxton  
2009-10 School Year  
Film as Literature

CHARACTER

COMPETENCE

COMMUNICATION

### COURSE DESCRIPTION—

The goal of this class is to give the students an appreciation and understanding of 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. Students will be expected to demonstrate critical and analytical skill in “reading” filmed texts as well as some basic skill in “writing” with 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	73% and above = C
90% and above = A-	70% and above = C-
87% and above = B+	67% and above = D+
83% and above = B	63% and above = D
80% and above = B-	60% and above = D-
77% and above = C+	59% and below = F

Grades and attendance may be checked at any time on the PowerSchool Internet site at [powerschool.ths.alpine.k12.ut.us](http://powerschool.ths.alpine.k12.ut.us) or 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 or weekly basis. 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 new 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 adhere to the Timpanogos High School attendance policy. If the 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.

## **PARTICIPATION—**

All students will be expected to engage in all classroom discussions and 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, violation of rules, inappropriate behavior, or any other lack of participation.** As this is a participation-based class, these points will have a large impact on the students' grades.

## **SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS—**

Assignments should be neat, legible, and complete. Assignments that are illegible will not be accepted. Incomplete assignments, of course, will only receive partial credit. **No-name assignments will be discarded. NO 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).**

Extra credit (up to a limit of 40 points per term) will be available to make up participation points or late work points. **No extra credit or late work will be accepted in the last week of each term.**

I am looking forward to working with you this year. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the school. During class or after hours, please e-mail me at [saxtb786@alpine.k12.ut.us](mailto:saxtb786@alpine.k12.ut.us) or leave a voice-mail message at extension 214.

Thank you,  
Brian Saxton

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 2009-10 Film as Literature disclosure document:

Student : \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' e-mail address and phone (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

## 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](http://www.filmratings.com), [www.mpa.org](http://www.mpa.org), or an independent site such as [www.screenit.com](http://www.screenit.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.)

Smoke Signals

Persepolis

Radio Flyer

The Village

Minority Report

Hotel Rwanda

The King of Kong

O Brother, Where Art Thou?

Silverado

A.I.

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