

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Block \_\_\_\_\_

**Course: Film as Literature**

**Teacher: Mr. Butcher**

**Email: mbutcher@spsmail.org**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Based on a college-level course, this class explores the connections between literature and film through an in-depth study of film, writing, and film production from a literary perspective. Students will: study film history, read novels that inspire film, and analyze film through discussion and extensive film analysis papers. Students will become more knowledgeable and appreciative readers and more perceptive viewers of film through learning basic cinematic techniques that define different genres of film. Students should expect to produce college-level written analysis and extensive outside reading.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- Develop and apply skills and strategies to the reading process
- Develop and apply skills and strategies to comprehend, analyze and evaluate fiction, poetry, and drama from a variety of cultures and times
- Develop and apply skills and strategies to comprehend, analyze and evaluate nonfiction (such as biographies, newspapers, technical manuals) from a variety of cultures and times
- Apply a writing process in composing text
- Compose well-developed text
- Write effectively in various forms and types of writing
- Develop and apply effective listening skills and strategies
- Develop and apply effective speaking skills and strategies for various audiences and purposes
- Develop and apply effective research process skills to gather, analyze, and evaluate information
- Develop and apply effective skills and strategies to analyze and evaluate oral and visual media

### **COURSE FILMS**

(\*\*Parental signature is required to stay in the course and assumes acceptance of film list.)

Citizen Kane, 1941

Casablanca, 1942

It's a Wonderful Life, 1946

Rear Window, 1954

The Trouble with Harry, 1955

The Searchers, 1958

Vertigo, 1958

Some Like it Hot, 1959

North by Northwest, 1959

Psycho, 1960

Lawrence of Arabia, 1962

The Godfather, 1972

Annie Hall, 1977

Raging Bull, 1980

Schindler's List, 1993

The Shawshank Redemption, 1994

Life is Beautiful, 1997

Triplets of Belleville, 2003

Man on Wire, 2009

## GRADING

Grades for the course are weighted and will be determined by assessment in the following areas:

1. projects/papers/homework will equal 80% of a student's overall grade.
2. daily participation will equal 10% of the student's grade. Must be in attendance and participating without being disruptive to earn these points. Quality and effort will be significant contributors for establishing a grade. Students will only earn participation points when they are in class participating in the daily activities.
3. Final Exam will equal 10% of the final grade.

**\*No extra-credit opportunities will be provided in this course.**

A specific number of points will be assigned to projects, class assignments, and class participation. The number of points will be recorded, totaled and the percentage computed. The percentage will then be used to determine the student's grade using the following scale:

A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

Make up Policy:

- Films missed because of absence become the responsibility of the student to rent or check out from the library. The film may not be checked out from the Film as Literature teacher.
- A film may be made up until the following film critique is completed. For example, if you miss Casablanca you can make up assignments until the due date for the critique of Citizen Kane.

## MID-QUARTER GRADE CHECKS

**(Note to Parents/guardians - Please ask your student for these.)**

Grade checks will be sent home approximately every third week of each quarter to inform parents/guardians of their student's progress. Students and their parents/guardians should review and sign the grade check. Each student is responsible for returning the signed grade check to class.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students are expected to use complete sentences, proper grammar, and correct spelling in every written performance.

Homework - The student should expect to have performance and activity homework assignments from this class.

Eighth semester seniors may opt out of any final if they have an "A" or "A-" in the course prior to the final examinations.

Final - The final will be a significant part of the student's grade. The final will be at least 10% and no

more than 25% of the student's grade. The final will be given during the final exam time at the end of the course in accordance with the school district policy.

Presentations - Throughout the course, students may be required to make a class presentation at an assigned time. If a student chooses not present at the assigned time he/she will receive a zero for the presentation grade. Any departure from this policy is unfair to the other students that are prepared. Except for illness, extreme emergencies, or any other excused absence, no excuse should be allowed and no time for make-up will be provided. If a student is absent, and the absence is excused, the day of a presentation, the student must present the day that he/she returns to class or he/she will receive a zero.

Late Work - Late work will only be accepted in cases of excused absences in accordance with the district's policy.

In addition the following stipulations are made and every student is expected to abide by them:

1. Students are expected to treat other students and the teacher with respect.
2. The student is expected to be in his/her seat when the bell rings.
3. Talking during films is inconsiderate and is not to be done.
4. Students should not use profanity, obscene language, obscene gestures or make remarks that might be considered suggestive or crude by others in the class or by the teacher.
5. Make-up Work - Students are responsible for obtaining and completing make-up work. Assignments given to the student prior to their absence must be turned in or completed the DAY THE STUDENT RETURNS TO CLASS.
6. Students may have snacks and beverages in this class; however, if students do not follow classroom rules or fail to cleanup after themselves, this privilege will be revoked.
7. Passes are a disruption to the learning process. Permission must be obtained from the teacher if the student needs to leave the classroom for any reason. The teacher will determine if the reason is valid. The teacher will also determine if a student leaves class when requested by a pass from the office or another teacher. **Students should never use the bathrooms in the locker rooms during this class. A student caught in a locker room while in my class will be referred to an assistant principal.**

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

The rules in all Springfield Public Schools regarding electronic devices read as follows:

*"The possession of laser pointers and other unsafe electronic items are prohibited in the school building. All other electronic devices, such as, but not limited to, cell phones, pagers, PDA's, head phones, IPODs/MP3 players may be in the student's possession as long as they are not disruptive of the educational process or in violation of site use procedures. The school district will not be responsible for lost or stolen items."*

## **Cellular Phones**

Students are not allowed to use or display cell phones during the class time. If they choose to disregard this rule, they will be disciplined according to site scope and sequence.

If a parent has a need to reach a student during the school day, he or she should call the office and we will make every attempt to deliver the message. If parents have a need to call on a student's cell phone to leave a message during the day they are free to do so. However, students cannot check for messages during class time.

If a student is in class or in the hallway during class time and remembers that the cell phone is turned on, the student should approach the teacher and ask permission from the teacher to turn it off. Providing the student has followed the appropriate procedure, the teacher should allow the student to turn off the phone without penalty.

If a student forgets to turn off a cell phone and it rings or vibrates during class, the student should ask the teacher's permission to turn it off. The student may also be subject to the teacher's classroom discipline procedures.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT**

Academic honesty is expected in all classes at KHS. Cheating will not be tolerated. Violations of academic honesty include, but are not limited to, copying, allowing someone to copy your paper, using cheat sheets, using technology to transmit or receive information with the intent to commit academic dishonesty, not grading correctly, plagiarizing, and self plagiarizing. Plagiarism is the theft of ideas, writings, or words of another person and passing this information off as one's own. Self plagiarism is completing an original paper for one class assignment, then turning in that same paper to another teacher for another class assignment without permission. Papers may be checked by the teacher using plagiarism detection software. Any student cheating will be subject to academic and/or disciplinary penalties. Consequences may include: reduction in grade on assignment, repeat assignment, no grade (zero) on assignment or others as deemed appropriate. Academic dishonesty will be reported to a school counselor and a parent will be notified.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

1. Truancy - an elective absence which was not approved in advance by parents or by school officials. Work missed because of a truancy should be completed but will not be counted for credit. Truancy is a violation of state statutes as well as school regulations and will result in disciplinary action.
2. Suspension - an absence required by school authorities as disciplinary action for inappropriate student behavior. Work missed because of a suspension may not be completed for credit. Students will not be excluded from final examinations because of suspensions. Special arrangements may be necessary.
3. School Activities - students represent their schools in a variety of athletic and academic activities. When a student serves as an authorized representative of his/her school, the student is not considered absent. Students who choose to participate in extra-curricular activities resulting in classes missed are to make up all assignments missed.
4. All other absences - all absences, including those approved in advance by parents or school officials, except those for school sponsored activities, will count against a student's days absent. The student should be careful in the use of absences because excessive absences may affect a student's class participation grade.
5. Make-up Work - If a student is absent from class, it will be his/her responsibility to obtain

assignments, notes, etc. to keep up with the rest of the class. Tests that are missed must be made up within five days of the student's return to school or an "F" grade will be recorded. Make-up tests will be given only before or after school. The make-up test will not be the same as the original test. Should the student choose not to contact the teacher within five days to make arrangements for work missed an "F" grade will be recorded for assignments missed during the absence.

6. Class Participation - A student's grade in this class is mostly determined by class participation. Class participation includes such factors as attendance, punctuality, student preparation and contributions to the class learning environment and a cooperative attitude.

### **TARDY POLICY**

Absence and Tardy Policy: Students are urged to be here daily. Poor attendance makes the work seem harder, less enjoyable, and puts unnecessary hardship on the students. Regular attendance helps you keep up, both in the work itself and in understanding course context. It is nearly impossible to watch the films in the course without being here.

I expect students to be in their seats and prepared to work before the final bell rings. Students should not be out of their seat and talking to other classmates when the final bell rings. The tardy policy for this class is the same as the school-wide policy. **This policy will be strictly enforced.**

Students should find their seats at the conclusion of the tardy bell and remain in their seats during the taking of attendance. If a student is out of his or her assigned seat during attendance, he or she will lose half of their daily participation points (5 points).

### **ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES**

**100% Attendance** – If a student has 100% attendance in a class for the entire term, 10% will be added to his/her final exam grade

**95-99% Attendance** – If a student has 95-99% attendance in a class for the entire term, 5% will be added to his/her final exam grade

Eighth semester seniors may opt out of any final if they have an "A" or "A-" in the course prior to the final examinations.

### **SEALS OF EXCELLENCE**

Seals of Excellence in English are awarded to seniors that meet the academic requirements.

- 1.) Student must score at the proficient level or above on the designated state assessment in communication arts. Transfer students who did not have the opportunity to take the designated state assessment will be reviewed by the principal.
- 2.) Student must earn a non-weighted GPA of 3.76 or above in English courses.
- 3.) Student must rank in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile or above on verbal section of the SAT or ACT.
- 4.) Student must have earned 4 units of English (not counting Drama, Speech, or Journalism).

## AGREEMENT OF TERMS OF SYLLABUS

I have read and understood the policies and principles set forth in the attached syllabus for the Film as Literature class. I agree to follow the directions set forth as they guide my participation in this class.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

To better facilitate communication between us, could you please supply me with the following information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

### **VIDEO PERMISSION**

I give my child permission to view any of the videos listed in Mr. Butcher's class syllabus.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No