



WBU Online
School of Languages and Literature

Wayland Baptist University Mission Statement: Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success and service to God and humankind.

Course Name:

ENGL 5304.VC99 — Studies in British Literature: Jane Austen Sampler
Directed Study

Class Meeting Time and Location:

Class should be available any time, day or night, through Blackboard (BB) online.

Term and Year:

Fall 1, 2023 (8-week session), August 7 – September 30, 2023

Instructor:

Dr. Karen Beth Strovas

Email:

Email me any time at strovask@wbu.edu. I will get back to you as soon as possible, nearly always during office hours or within 24-48 hours.

Office Location and Phone Number:

My office is physically located on Wayland's Plainview campus in Gates Hall 202A, 806-291-1114. For serious concerns related to the class, you may call or text my **cell (806) 292-3543**.

Catalog Description: Topics of special interest to graduate students and not covered elsewhere in the curriculum. May be repeated one time when topic varies.

Prerequisite: graduate standing.

Recommended Textbooks and Resources:

- Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*. Penguin Classics, 2002. 978-0-14-143951-8.
- Austen, Jane. *Persuasion*. Penguin Classics, 2003. 978-0-14-143968-6
- Austen, Jane. *Emma*. Penguin Classics, 2003. 978-0-14-143958-7
- **Please note** that all three of these texts are in the public domain and available as digital reads or downloads through various e-book outlets, such as [Project Gutenberg](#) or your local library. I do not mind if you use free books. Likewise, if you already own other editions of these books, use the ones you own! I will

be using **the Penguin print** editions listed above to prepare my lectures slides and notes, though I will likely refer to chapter numbers alongside page numbers in my lectures, so if you are completing the reading assignments in a differently-paginated book or ebook, you should be able to follow along with lecture material just fine. That being said, I love owning my own copies of books for studying and annotating purposes and—if you do too—then I encourage you to try to purchase yours from the [WBU bookstore](#).

- As this course will take place entirely online, you must have reliable internet and access to software for writing papers (such as Microsoft Word) and software capable of reading documents produced in .html and .pdf formats; also, have access to backup media such as a USB flash drive or Dropbox, etc.
- Regular access and known passwords to WBU Blackboard and WBU email account. Your WBU email is likely the only way that I will contact you.

Course Outcome Competencies:

At the end of the course, students actively engaged in learning will be able to:

1. describe the distinct characteristics of the subjects and themes of Jane Austen's novels within the context of British literature;
2. demonstrate the ability to read critically and communicate persuasively about the works selected;
3. conduct graduate-level research on a piece of literature related to the subject or theme selected for the course;
4. use above research to complete an essay that demonstrates graduate-level skills in research, writing, argument, and analysis.

The more the student puts into the course, the higher his or her outcome competencies will be.

Attendance Requirements:

This course is set up on a weekly "module" basis. Assignments and discussions will be presented and due each week (Monday-Sunday). Therefore, a *minimum* "attendance" of accessing the Blackboard (BB) class at least twice a week is required in order to complete the course successfully. Participation and attendance will be determined through submission of discussion posts or other assignments. Failure to submit two or more assignments is grounds for receiving an F. Makeup work will be offered at the instructor's discretion and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Any authorized makeups must be completed within the time limit set by the instructor; otherwise, the makeup grade will be zero. Finally, recall that WBU's catalog stipulates students who miss 25% or more of class time will automatically fail the course.

Disability Statement:

Disability statement - In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Disability Services Coordinator and Academic Coach serves as the coordinator of students with disabilities and must be contacted concerning

accommodation requests (office (806) 291-1057. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

Academic Honesty:

Wayland Baptist University observes a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. Per university policy as described in the academic catalog, all cases of academic dishonesty will be reported and second offenses will result in suspension from the university. [Link to Statement on Academic Integrity](#)

Class Communication, Announcements, and Updates:

Official announcements will be posted in the “announcements” section of our Blackboard course home page. Blackboard automatically forwards these announcements to your WBU email, as well. It is your responsibility to set up your Wayland email account and check it daily. If you need assistance with your **Wayland email, call IT @ (806)291-3540, OR [access assistance online from IT regarding your email account.](#)**

Technical Aspects of the course:

If you encounter technical problems, find some assistance at [WBU Online](#).

- You are encouraged to visit the [WBUonline Blackboard login page](#) as soon as possible and work through the [Learn Module tutorials](#) if are not familiar with how the service works. If you have problems with Blackboard or your WBU email, please use the WBU Support Contacts available on the [WBUonline Blackboard login page](#) or the contact info above.
- Note: It’s been my experience Blackboard works better with Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome than with Microsoft Internet Explorer. You may want to download a Chrome browser to use for class if you don’t already have one.

Class Expectations and Respect for Others:

Students are expected to treat one another and their instructor with respect in all communication, whether that is through email or Blackboard Discussion Boards. Please choose your words well.

***Grade Appeal Policy (from Student Handbook):**

Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the vice president of academic affairs to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals.

Grading Chart:

- Weekly Responses to Writing Prompts and occasional Zoom discussions 50%
- Preliminary Researched Argument Essay Email (due after week 6) 5%
- Research & Analysis Essay + MLA-style Works Cited (due mid-week 8) 25%
- Comparative Analysis Film Essay (due final day of term) 20%

Assignment Descriptions:

This class is made up of **five types of assignments**: Scheduled Weekly Readings, Weekly Written Responses to a prompt or Zoom meeting discussion, a preliminary essay email (topic proposal), Research & Analysis Essay, and Comparative Analysis Film Essay. More detailed assignment descriptions will be uploaded to "Essay Assignments" folder in Blackboard within at least three weeks of the assignment's due date. All written assignments other than emails must be submitted in electronic form through Blackboard by their due dates.

See **essay details** below, which will be supplemented by assignment sheets:

*The **Preliminary Essay email** is an email sent from you to Dr. Strovask (strovask@wbu.edu) detailing your early ideas and planning for the Research & Analysis Essay. Email me the following:

-a 3-6 sentence (or longer) topic synopsis of your upcoming essay.

-a clear, arguable, working thesis statement for your essay.

THESIS STATEMENT – a sentence or group of sentences towards the beginning of an essay that summarizes the overarching opinionated claim of your essay, which will be developed and supported in the essay itself. It may be complemented with a statement of purpose or objective for your essay.

An argument essay does not simply explain an idea; it attempts to prove, disprove, confirm, or enlarge on an idea. (In literary analysis, this usually means that you are defending or justifying your interpretation of the text and demonstrating its usefulness to the ongoing scholarly conversation.)

-a preliminary list of 3-5 sources and why they've caught your eye.

*The **Research & Analysis Essay** is an essay of **6-12 double-spaced**, typed pages (minimum = all the way to the bottom of 6 + WC page), on a topic relating specifically to one or more of the works or authors assigned this semester. Your objective is to use your own reasoning and literary analysis skills in conjunction with views from scholarly sources to present a well-argued and convincing thesis.

Your topic should relate to some aspect of the course theme, and may focus on any issue examined or complicated by any of works on the syllabus (e.g. gender roles, marriage relations and marriage market, sisterhood, socio-economic politics, Austen's style and discourse, dialogue and/or interiority, mother or father figures or substitutes, satire, nature and exercise, mental or physical illness, letter writing and epistolary forms, etc.) or any other relevant subject relating to any novel or theme studied in this class.

In addition to using at least one Jane Austen novel or adaptation as a primary source, locate and use at least three secondary scholarly sources (books, book chapters, essays, documentaries, or journal articles). Your sources can be

used as critical, historical, supporting, or counterargument material; they should relate directly to your thesis or topic. Any assigned critical readings may count as source material—email me if you have a question about something you would like to use. A Works Cited page in MLA citation format is required, and your essay will not be graded without it. **See the assignment sheet for more details.**

How I will grade: This essay will be evaluated on a rubric according to the following criteria: (1) control and responsible development and organization of discussion; (2) presentation of ideas and wording from primary and secondary sources as evidence (your essay should demonstrate that you understand how to use summary, paraphrase, and quotation properly); (3) analysis of, and ability to draw conclusions from, this evidence; (4) clarity and polish of writing; (5) proper use of MLA in-text citation style; (6) following directions.

The Research & Analysis Essay is due by September 27, midnight (12 a.m. Central Time, September 28). See assignment sheet for more details.

***Comparative Analysis Film Essay**—The comparative analysis essay is a 4-5-page argument that requires you to defend a thought-provoking thesis about either *Pride and Prejudice*, *Persuasion*, or *Emma*, and one or two of its film adaptations. This thesis should be developed by reading the novel and viewing the film(s) closely. Essentially, this is a *close reading essay* with a *comparative approach*. Put the two or three texts/films into conversation with one another to discern how they differ in meaningful ways, enhance one another's meaning, and/or problematize a theme.

Your analysis should examine a particular problem, character, conversation, theme, image, or significant idea that appears in the novel and one or both of its corresponding films. Hone in on a single controlling idea or even one specific passage/scene so that you can successfully argue a convincing thesis in a short space. Use short, quoted and cited excerpts of dialogue and/or description from the fiction and film to focus and substantiate your argument. **The scope of the paper should be quite narrow, in order that you may be thorough and specific within this scope.** However, it is my expectation that you apply your findings in some way to the full novel/film(s) as you conclude.

How I will grade: These analyses will be evaluated on a rubric according to the following criteria: (1) control and responsible development of discussion; (2) presentation of novel's/films' ideas, visual cues, and language as evidence; (3) analysis of, and ability to draw conclusions from, this evidence; (4) clarity and polish of writing; (5) proper use of MLA documentation style; (6) following directions.

The Comparative Analysis Film Essay is due by September 30, 5 p.m. Central Time. See assignment sheet for more details.

Letter Grade Scale: My grading scale for this course is as follows: 89.45–100 is an A; 79.45–89.44 is a B; and so forth. Anything below 59.45 is an F. Weighted grades are averaged according to a 100-point scale and are totaled at the end of the semester. Please talk with me if you are having concerns (or happiness!) about your grades.

Special Topics in British Literature: Jane Austen Sampler

Course Schedule/Outline

This schedule is subject to revision, although due dates for graded assignments *will never be earlier* than currently listed. Students will be notified of any changes.

Week 1: Monday, August 7–Sunday, August 13:

1. Complete "Required First Assignment" for university census attendance
2. Read "Welcome to ENGL 5304: Jane Austen Sampler" PDF on Blackboard
3. Read through full syllabus.
4. Read Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, Volumes I and II, through chapter 42 (Penguin ed. pages 5-232).
5. View Video Lecture 1
6. Complete Week 1 Responses 1a and 1b

Week 2: Monday, August 14–Sunday, August 20:

1. Read Week 2 Announcement
2. Read and complete Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, Volume III, through chapter 61—the end of the book (Penguin ed. pages 235-367).
3. View Video Lectures 2a and 2b
4. Complete Week 2 written Response or schedule a Zoom call with Dr. Strovas.
5. Read through the Comparative Analysis Film Essay assignment sheet and the Research & Analysis Essay assignment sheet from start to finish. Email any questions you have regarding the essay assignments. Brainstorm themes for potential *Pride and Prejudice* topics.
6. OPTIONAL assignments for an enriched or enhanced week of learning, or to prepare for your upcoming research essay:
 - a. view any *Pride and Prejudice* TV, film, or vlog adaptation for comparison value (see my list of recommendations at the end of the syllabus)
 - b. Read scholarly article: [Stovel, Nora, "'Will You Dance?': Film Adaptations of *Pride and Prejudice*," *Persuasions: Jane Austen Journal Online* 34.1: \(Winter 2013\).](#)
 - c. Read scholarly article: [Alvarez, Monica, "Deciphering Mr. Darcy: Gendered Receptions through Time," *Persuasions: Jane Austen Journal Online* 38.1: \(Winter 2017\).](#)
 - d. Research man's role in marriage/parenthood, nineteenth-century conceptions of marriage, mothers and mother figures, sisterhood in literature, the entail, travel, social class, women's accomplishments, money, balls or dancing, etc.

Week 3: Monday, August 21–Sunday, August 27:

1. Read Week 3 Announcement
2. Read Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, Volume I and through chapter 5 of Volume II, chapters 1-17 (Penguin ed. pages 1-152).
3. View Video Lectures 3a and 3b
4. Complete Week 3 written response
5. Begin researching topics or starting to read *Emma* as time permits.

Week 4: Monday, August 28–Sunday, September 3:

1. Read Week 4 Announcement
2. Read and complete Jane Austen's *Persuasion* through Volume II or chapter 24, the end of the book (Penguin ed. pages 153-236)
3. View Video Lectures 4a and 4b
4. Complete Week 4 Written response or schedule Zoom call with Dr. Strovas
5. Consider whether *Pride and Prejudice* or *Persuasion* interests you for the Research & Analysis Essay. Brainstorm topics. Email me if you're not sure.
6. RECOMMENDED: Complete as much of *Emma* Volume I as time permits.
7. OPTIONAL assignments for an enriched or enhanced week of learning, or to prepare for your research essay:
 - a. view any *Persuasion* TV, film, or vlog adaptation for comparison value (see my list of recommendations at the end of the syllabus)
 - b. Read scholarly article of your choice from [Volume 39 Number 1 of *Persuasions*](#) dedicated to *Persuasion*.
 - c. Research nineteenth-century conceptions of military or naval employments, marriage, widowhood and remarriage, travel, visiting the town of Bath for health and diversion, debts of the gentry, social class, music, walking and taking exercise, surrogate mothers, etc.

Week 5: Tuesday, September 5 (Monday // Labor Day holiday)–Sunday, September 10:

1. Read Week 5 Announcement
2. Read Jane Austen's *Emma*, Volumes I and II, through chapter 36 (Penguin ed. pages 1-291). Continue reading on into Volume III as time permits.
3. View Video Lectures 5a and 5b
4. Complete Week 5 Written response or schedule Zoom call with Dr. Strovas
5. Consider whether *Emma* or one of our previous novels interests you for the Research & Analysis Essay. Brainstorm topics. Start looking for key textual evidence to support your ideas or preliminary thesis/claim. Work through the library catalogs and databases for article sources or books to request through inter-library loan.
6. Pat yourself on the back—what a week! You're past the halfway point. 😊 I usually eat some pie to celebrate.

Week 6: Monday, September 11–Sunday, September 17:

1. Read Week 6 Announcement
2. Read and complete Jane Austen's *Emma*, Volume III, chapters 37-55—the end (Penguin ed. pages 293-453).
3. View Video Lectures 6a and 6b
4. Complete Week 6 Written response or schedule Zoom call with Dr. Strovas
5. Finalize your essay topic. Begin choosing your key passages for analysis, secondary sources (see last page of syllabus for research tools), and try to devote at least .5-1 hour per day this week to pre-writing such as outlining, taking notes on sources, freewriting textual observations/analyses, etc.
6. **Email me** 1) a short 3-6 sentence topic synopsis of your upcoming essay, 2) a clear, arguable thesis for your essay, and 3) a consideration of what kind of research you're doing and what you've found thus far. Do this as soon as you solidify your topic and focus—due no later than Saturday, midnight, of Week 6.
7. OPTIONAL assignments for an enriched or enhanced week of learning, or to prepare for your research essay:
 - a. view any *Emma* TV, film, or vlog adaptation for comparison value (see my list of recommendations at the end of the syllabus)
 - b. Read scholarly article: [Easton, Celia A., "The Encouragement I Received': *Emma* and the Language of Sexual Assault," *Persuasions: Jane Austen Journal Online* 37.1: \(Winter 2016\).](#)
 - c. Read scholarly article: [Bui, L. Bao, "Epistolary Culture in *Emma*: Secrets and Social Transgressions," *Persuasions: Jane Austen Journal Online* 38.1: \(Winter 2017\).](#)
 - d. Research nineteenth-century conceptions of illness or invalidism, marriage, widowhood and remarriage, governesses or women's education, class biases, music and women's diversions, father figures in Austen, surrogate mothers, etc.

Week 7: Monday, September 18–Sunday, September 24:

1. Read Week 7 Announcement
2. View videos if posted.
3. Optional: Schedule Zoom call with Dr. Strovas if you would like to talk about the essays, novels, or films.
4. **Try to devote at least .5-1 hour per day this week to the writing of your essay.**

Week 8: Monday, September 25–Saturday, September 30:

1. **Research & Analysis Final Essay due to Blackboard by midnight Central on Wednesday, September 27 (12 a.m. CST, Sept. 28)** —Please see assignment sheet for full details.
2. **Comparative Analysis Film Essay due to Blackboard by 5 p.m. Central on Saturday, September 30.**—Please see assignment sheet for full details.
3. Dr. Strovas will submit final grades by Tuesday, October 3.

SUGGESTED RESEARCH TOOLS

- *JSTOR, Project MUSE, Academic Search Complete*
- *Books in LRC collections—we have many for this era of literature!*
- *Open Access Jane Austen journals*
- Needing more assistance? Email me! strovask@wbu.edu

RECOMMENDED FILM and TV ADAPTATIONS

- *Pride and Prejudice* (1940, Greer Garson, Laurence Olivier); *Pride and Prejudice* (1995 BBC miniseries; Jennifer Ehle and Colin Firth); *Pride & Prejudice* (2005, Keira Knightley and Matthew Macfadyen); *Bride and Prejudice* (2004 Bollywood version, Aishwarya Rai); *Bridget Jones's Diary* (2001, Renée Zellweger, Colin Firth, and Hugh Grant); [The Lizzie Bennet Diaries](#) (2012-2013 vlog YouTube series)
- *Persuasion* (1995; Amanda Root and Ciarán Hinds); *Persuasion* (2007 TV movie, Sally Hawkins and Rupert Penry-Jones); [Rational Creatures](#) (2019 vlog YouTube series)
- *Emma* (1996; Gwyneth Paltrow, Toni Collette, Ewan McGregor, and Jeremy Northam); *Emma* (2020, Anya Taylor Joy and Johnny Flynn); *Clueless* (1995, Alicia Silverstone); *Emma* (2009, Romola Garai and Jonny Lee Miller); [Emma Approved](#) (vlog YouTube series); *Emma* (TV movie 1996, Kate Beckinsale and Mark Strong)
- several other older BBC or other made-for-tv versions exist out there, and many “inspired by Austen” films, too.