



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 4330—Studies in Film: Fantasy, Magic, and Myth

Term and Year

Online Fall 1, 2025

Full Name of Instructor

Dr. Erin Heath

Office Phone and WBU Email Address

erin.heath@wbu.edu 806-291-1110

Office Hours, Building, and Location

Gates Hall 206-B and Online, various times, and by appointment

Class Meeting Time and Location

WBU's Virtual Campus: [Link to Wayland Blackboard](#)

Catalog Description

Topics regularly alternate between documentary, foreign, film noir, religious, Shakespearian or other genres or topics to cover special studies in film. May be repeated one time when topic varies.

Prerequisite

ENGL 1301

Required Textbook and Resources

Book

Shadow of a Mouse Donald Crafton ISBN: 9780520261044

Films (can be purchased or rented)

1. *Chronicles of Narnia* 2005 Andrew Adamson
2. *Labyrinth* 1986 Jim Henson
3. *Black Panther* 2018 Ryan Coogler
4. *Fern Gully* 1992 Bill Kroyer
5. *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* 1988 Roger Zemeckis
6. *Nosferatu* 1922 F.W. Murnau
7. *Spirited Away* 2002 Hayao Miyazaki

You will be required to rent or purchase films for this class. You may either get the DVD or watch the digital version of the films from a streaming service like Amazon, Google Play, iTunes, or Youtube. There will also be an article or other digital reading most weeks.

This course will take place entirely online. You must have a reliable and secure computer connection and internet service, as well as access to software for writing papers (such as Microsoft Word) and software capable of reading documents produced in .html and .pdf formats; backup media such as a USB flash drive, google docs, or Dropbox, etc.; Reliable internet service and WBU email account.

Your WBU email is the way that I will contact you. As a Wayland student, you can (as of the original publication of this syllabus) receive a free subscription to Word. If you want to know how to access it, email me and I will post it to blackboard.

Caution:

We will watch a variety of films in this course. Because of the nature of film some of these works will contain adult content, images and/or language. These may include sexual references, sexual scenes, drug references, violent scenes, or other similar material. All film viewings will be required for the course. If you do not anticipate being comfortable with the works as listed on the syllabus, please contact me immediately. This course may not be the best choice for you.

Course outcome competencies

1. Discuss and analyze the overall topic through narrative strategies, shot properties, mise-en-scène, acting, editing, and the use of sound in the films covered in the course.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of major cinematic movements and how these movements are linked to the selected films.
3. Demonstrate the ability to read critically and communicate persuasively about the works selected.
4. Discuss the overall topic for the course and suggest how this topic is represented in each of the select films.
5. Conduct research on a topic related to a select film, articulate and support a thesis, and follow through with appropriate documentation.

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

Attendance Requirements:

Because this is an online course and because we will not meet synchronously, your attendance for the course is largely dependent on your contribution to the discussion board's weekly topics and other participation grades. In keeping with the on-site attendance policy, failure to provide a full response for at least 75% of the discussion topics will result in an F for the course.

Due Dates and Late Penalties:

Assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. (Central Time Zone) on the date posted. Be sure that your clock matches the clock in WBU's Blackboard. All assignments must be submitted to the Blackboard site to receive a grade. These deadlines, like most deadlines in life, are not negotiable. *Any late assignment will receive a 15 point deduction if it is late.* Nothing will be accepted after the last regular day of the course.

If for any reason you have trouble submitting your assignment online, send me an email with the attached assignment (in Microsoft Word) before the due date/time, with an explanation of the technical problem. I will note the submission time of the email in order to assess removing late penalties. You will be required to re-submit the assignment within 24 hours, or once the technical problem is resolved.

Expectations, Communication, & Other Information:

Announcements and important information will be posted on the Blackboard site. Be sure to check the site often. Additional information may be sent to your WBU emails, so make sure you've set up a WBU email and are checking it often. Always feel free to email me or chat online anytime I'm signed on if you are concerned about the course or your progress. I am available to help you, provide resources, and give direction—but I cannot help you if I do not know you're struggling.

Students should contact me by using my wbu.edu email. I am also available on zoom by appointment. I have an office on the Plainview campus, as well, so Plainview campus students can set up an appointment to visit with me there. Please note that the phone number listed in this syllabus is my office number, which may be checked periodically throughout the week during the spring and fall Plainview semesters, but not often during the summer. The best way to get in touch with me quickly is through email.

Technical Support:

If you need assistance with your Wayland email, call IT @ (806) 291-3540, OR go here: [student IT help](#)

If you encounter other technical problems, contact the Virtual Campus (VC) via this link: [Virtual Campus Online](#), or feel free to call direct (866) 547-9192 or email virtualcampus@wbu.edu

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:

Participation in discussion questions and peer review	25%
Annotated bibliography	15%
Research and analysis essay	40%
Quizzes	10%
Short reflection and write-up functioning as “final exam”	10%

Writing Assignments:

In addition to discussion boards, students will be required to write an annotated bibliography, a research analysis essay, and a final exam essay. Each assignment will use MLA documentation style. A helpful online resource for citing in MLA is the OWL at Purdue: [Purdue Online Writing Lab Link](#)

Final Exam:

One exam, a final, will be given during the term. This exam is likely to be a relatively short essay in which you reflect on your experiences with the texts and themes of this course, including a “take away” list of which two lessons you believe were most insightful or valuable to you as a literary student or scholar, and why. A list of prompts will be provided no less than one week before the exam is due.

Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:

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. Plagiarism is described in part as:

1. asking or paying someone else to write your paper;
 2. copying, stealing, or “borrowing” another’s paper, or portions of a book, article, or website, without using quotation marks and proper acknowledgement.
- Submitting your own work for more than one course without permission of both instructors can also constitute plagiarism. For any work submitted in this course, documentation should follow current MLA form; the current MLA guide is available at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/>. If you have questions about fair use or documentation, please do not hesitate to consult me.

Artificial Intelligence Policy: No use of any generative AI tools permitted.

- i. Students are required to create and produce all work themselves or with assigned group members. Any work submitted that has used an AI generative tool like ChatGPT will be in immediate violation of the academic integrity policies for the course and WBU.
- ii. All assignments must be fully created, designed, and prepared by the student(s).
- iii. Any work that uses generative AI will be treated as plagiarism.

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 Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291- 3765. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.”

Grade Appeal:

“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 Executive Vice President/Provost to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.”

Tentative Schedule:

The schedule below is a tentative outline for the term. As such, it is subject to change, with notification of course. All readings ought to be completed *prior* to doing any posts in the discussion forum.

TBD