



Wayland Baptist University Mission: 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 5308.VC01 — Advanced Research in English Studies

Class Meeting Time and Location:

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

Term and Year:

Fall 2019 (11-week term), August 19–November 2, 2019

Instructor:

Dr. Karen Beth Strovas

Email:

strovask@wbu.edu (email is the best way to reach me!)

Office Location / Phone Number: My office is located on Wayland's Plainview campus in Gates Hall 202A. For serious concerns, you may call or text my cell (806) 292-3543. I have kids, so please respect sleeping hours. Feel free to email me any time. I will get back to you as soon as possible, nearly always within 24 hours. Physical office hours are Central Time Zone: M/W: 10-11 am; Tu/Th 11-12:30; M-Th: 2-3 p.m.

Catalog Description: A course focused on locating and interacting with source material for advanced research projects in English studies. Note: Required of all MA in English students. **Prerequisite:** graduate standing

Required Textbook and Resources:

- Booth, Colomb, Williams, Bizup, and Fitzgerald. *The Craft of Research*. 4th Edition. Chicago: Chicago UP, 2016. ISBN-13: 978-0226239736
- Hayot, Eric. *The Elements of Academic Style: Writing for the Humanities*. Columbia UP: (August 26) 2014. ISBN-13: 978-0231168014
- Modern Language Association of America. *MLA Handbook*. 8th Edition. 2016. MLA. ISBN-13: 978-1603292627.
- 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; 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. express understanding of the traditional principles and procedures of bibliographic research
2. demonstrate research methods and skills in English studies by working with various databases and library resources to access, assess, and synthesize significant primary and secondary sources
3. formulate workable English-related research questions to create and sustain arguments based on readings and research
4. prepare graduate-level research papers or projects which employ scholarly or academic research and demonstrate a mastery of standard written English as well as stylistic maturity
5. understand and correctly use MLA Style in composed materials, and demonstrate awareness of other bibliographic styles, standards, and guidelines common to the Humanities.

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

Attendance Requirements:

This WBU Online course is set up on a weekly "module" basis. This means assignments, readings, discussions, papers, etc. will generally be presented and due each week (Monday-Sunday). Therefore, a *minimum* "attendance" of accessing the Blackboard (BB) class at least once a week is required in order to complete the course successfully. Participation and attendance will be determined through discussion board posts and/or submission of assignments. With that in mind, failure to submit two or more required assignments (including Discussion Board posts) is grounds for receiving an F in the course, regardless of final grade average. 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. 25% of 11 weeks is fewer than 3 weeks.

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." Note: If you would like me to accommodate a disability, please provide documentation within the first week of class or as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty:

No form of cheating will be tolerated. *Plagiarism*—copying or purchasing someone else’s words or ideas and presenting them as your own—is not only a form of cheating but also a serious academic offense. In the very least plagiarism or related forms of cheating will result in an F on the work in question, with the possibility of an F in the class. An official report will also be filed with the Provost/Academic VP. See the [Wayland catalog](#) for further information on the penalties of plagiarism.

Class Communication, Announcements, and Updates:

Official announcements not made in class will be sent to our Blackboard class online, and 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 Firefox 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.

*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.

*Required by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

Grading Chart

- Active participation in any posted Discussion Board question	15%
- Working Annotated Bibliography + "Constructing the Conversation"	25%
- Critical Analysis of a Scholarly Article	20%
- Conference Paper Proposal	10%
- Scholarly Journal Report	10%
- Major research proposal	20%

Assignment Descriptions

Discussion Boards—In general, if you follow directions, turn your DB in on time, answer my prompt fully and thoughtfully, and respond to at least two classmates, you will receive between 90-100%. I will automatically deduct 10 points at each 24-hour mark late. I will deduct 10 points for each missing response to a classmate. Each DB post will be assessed on a case-by-case basis for quality and completion.

Working Bibliography (NOT FOR SUBMISSION; NOT FOR A GRADE)—Compile a list of 40–50 sources that have some bearing on your research topic. The sources should be published academic discussions (avoid study aids, enthusiast websites, unpublished conference papers, dissertations and theses, etc.). There is no limit to how many books vs. how many articles you need. Simply create a list of the best material for your project. You do not necessarily have to read the full sources for a working bibliography, but you should exercise good judgment about what the titles and abstracts tell you, who publishes the articles or books, how long they might take to acquire, how balanced they are in terms of currentness, and whether you think you will understand their theoretical contexts and methodologies. This Working Bibliography will be the foundation of your Annotated Bibliography.

A good strategy is to treat the Working Bibliography as a Works Cited sheet for a paper. Be sure that your MLA documentation style is authoritative and accurate. You will almost certainly need to look beyond electronic databases for this assignment, so be creative in exploring print or e-book materials, or piggy-backing on good articles' footnotes and reference lists. The online *MLA Research Guide* and LRC librarians can be of assistance here. If you happen to live near Plainview, come visit the LRC! If you live near a larger university library, you may wish to stop by to investigate their stacks for a wider variety of print holdings, but you are not required to do so.

Working Annotated Bibliography—This assignment will draw from your working bibliography. Choose at least 20 of the most relevant sources from your working bibliography. For each source, write a 5-6 sentence or 5-6 bullet-point summary that reports each author's primary argument/purpose, main points of discussion, and most interesting or compelling evidence. Each summary should be headed by an MLA Works Cited entry, and the list should be alphabetized by source authors' last names. Key quotations with page numbers cited are also useful.

Constructing the Conversation—The Working Annotated Bibliography (described above) should be preceded by a 2-3 page introduction defining the scope of the research topic, any selectivity methods you used (e.g., limited by date, etc.), any interesting topic commonalities among the sources (e.g., where they agree, disagree, how they are in conversation with one another, who builds on whose work), and a justification or rationale for the bibliography as an academic resource (e.g., in what way(s) is this list necessary/useful for scholars of your topic? how does it contribute to the body of knowledge?). Please contact me early on if you have questions.

Critical Analysis of a Scholarly Article—The objective of this assignment is to analyze and critique a scholarly article based on your understanding of thesis, organization, and the generic conventions of published scholarly writing. It is my hope that, not only will this exercise improve your academic writing skills, but also—and primarily—it will improve your understanding of the scholarly essay genre, its patterns of organization, its rhetorical “tricks of the trade,” so to speak, its integration of primary source evidence and secondary support, and your ability to emulate and potentially publish one of your own academic essays in the future. Your ability to read scholarly work effectively and efficiently is a major indicator in your ability to succeed in research writing at the master’s and doctoral level; thus, this is a skill you should practice regularly.

Your critique will be composed of answers to the questions and points posed below:

1. Discuss the author’s general argument, including pinpointing the location of his or her thesis statement and whether or not you believed the author achieved an effective introduction and thesis section.
2. Identify the large-scale sections of the article and how each of these large “chunks” relates to the overall thesis. Provide examples of notable evidence or support (or favorite examples, memorable discussions, etc.) for these sections. Please cite page numbers (or paragraph numbers if the article is not paginated) when discussing sections to aid your reading audience.
3. What does the author claim to be doing in relation to or in conversation with previous research? Is he or she reversing or countering another author’s claim, or filling a hole that other scholars have ignored or neglected? Or possibly combining old research with new ideas, or putting old theories to a new use? Consider card 1 of Michael Michalko’s *ThinkPak* before finalizing this section.
4. What historical, political, social, or literary significance do you think this article will have, if any? Will it have lasting power?
5. Does its overall impact on you (as a reader, student, teacher, scholar, or professional in the field, etc.) challenge or enhance the text as you know it and understand it? Was the author fully convincing, or do you detect any research holes or logical fallacies? In what ways might this article be useful to you?

Conference Paper Proposal—Write a proposal (often called an “abstract”) for a conference paper on a very-narrowed-down aspect of your research topic following the form set out in the handout and/or Blackboard samples. You are not required to write the actual paper for ENGL 5308, only the proposal for one. However, I encourage you to look for upcoming conferences in journals, listservs, English department web pages, [Calls for Papers from UPenn](#) & [Calls for Papers from h-net](#), and the [literature area of Conference Alerts](#) so that you’ll have a real conference in mind while writing. (Note: most conference papers are 15-20 minutes maximum, which is 7-8 pages read aloud. Your proposal should be quite narrow to adhere to these confines!)

Scholarly Journal Report—Locate as many academic journals in your research field as you can (keep track of them in your personal notes) and then choose a favorite. Familiarize yourself with your chosen journal. Then type a two- to four-page double-spaced report on the journal. You will want to address the following questions:

1. Who publishes the journal?
2. Who are the editor and/or managing editor? Do they have any special qualifications?
3. How long has the journal existed?
4. How frequently is the journal published?
5. Where is the journal indexed? (In other words, in what databases do its contents appear?)
6. Is the journal open-access or by subscription only?
7. About how many articles does the journal publish per volume? How many reviews? Any other inclusions (such as “in brief” or creative works)?
8. What special interests characterize the journal? Does it emphasize a particular period or genre?
9. Does it favor a certain critical or theoretical approach? That is, does it emphasize interpretive close readings? feminist analyses? economic or cultural studies?
10. Does it provide biographical information on authors? If so, does the information suggest that the journal favors Ivy League authors, or is it less restrictive? Are there more female than male authors, or vice-versa?
11. Does it contain bibliographical aids, e.g., lists of recent publications, annual bibliographies, etc.? How might these aids be useful to a graduate student or professional scholar?
12. What are the general submission requirements for an author seeking to publish in the journal?

Major Research Proposal—Write a proposal for a major project, such as a master’s thesis (typically two body chapters minimum plus intro/conclusion sections) or a 25-30 page scholarly article. You are not required to complete the actual project for ENGL 5308, only the proposal for one. See further instructions and examples posted early in the semester.

Advanced Research in English Studies: Course Schedule/Outline

Page numbers refer to the editions of the course texts listed in the syllabus. *This schedule is subject to revision, although changes are unlikely. Students will be notified in advance of any changes.*

Week 1 August 19-August 25:

1. Read "Welcome to ENGL 5308_fa18" on Blackboard (BB) in the main weekly course content folder.
2. Read Lecture 1 ("Entering the Scholarly Conversation") and view the video lecture (Lecture 1b) re: using the library website.
3. Read *The Craft of Research* (parts one and two "prologues" pgs. 3-8 and 29-32; chs. 3 and 4, pgs. 33-64); *The Elements of Academic Style* (ch. 2, pgs. 7-16).
4. Complete Discussion Board 1
5. Brainstorm topics. Start working through the library catalogs and databases for articles or books to request through inter-library loan.

Week 2 August 26-September 1:

1. Read *The Craft of Research* (ch. 5, pgs. 65-84); *The Elements of Academic Style* (ch. 3, pages 17-35).
2. View Lectures 2a (on the reading) and 2b (searching library databases)
3. Brainstorm topics. Keep working through the library catalogs and databases for articles or books to request through inter-library loan.
4. Start compiling your Working Bibliography (in preparation for your Working *Annotated Bibliography*).
5. Complete Discussion Board 2

Week 3 September 3-September 8:

Note: Week 3 starts on Tuesday due to the Labor Day Holiday.

1. Read *The Craft of Research* (ch. 6-8, pgs. 85-131); *MLA Handbook* (Part 1, pages 3-58).
2. View Lecture 3
3. Complete Discussion Board 3
4. Continue compiling your working bibliography—a list of about 40–50 sources that have some bearing on your topic of interest.
5. **Make significant progress on the critical analysis.**

Week 4 September 9-September 15:

1. Read *The Craft of Research* (ch. 9-11 & 14, pgs. 132-177 & 200-213).
2. Read Lecture 4
3. Complete Discussion Board 4
4. **Critical Analysis of a Scholarly Article due uploaded to Blackboard by SATURDAY, September 14, midnight (CST).** Any late analyses will be counted off 10 points per 24 hours with the first deduction occurring at the 24-hour mark.

Week 5 September 16-September 22:

1. *The Elements of Academic Style* (ch. 8-10, pgs. 59-88); *MLA Handbook* (pgs. 102-128).
2. Read announcements PowerPoint and View Lecture 5
3. Complete Discussion Board 5
4. **Make significant progress on the annotated bibliography.**

Week 6 September 23-September 29:

1. *The Elements of Academic Style* (ch. 11-14, pgs. 89-115).
2. Read Lecture 6a and view video "Conferences and Conference Papers" lecture 6b
3. Complete Discussion Board 6
4. **"Constructing the Conversation" intro + Working Annotated Bibliography due uploaded to Blackboard by SATURDAY, September 28, midnight (CST).** Any late bibliographies will be counted off 10 points per 24 hours with the first deduction occurring at the 24-hour mark.
5. Pat yourself on the back. You're past the halfway point. ☺

Week 7 September 30-October 6:

1. **Email me** (strovask@wbu.edu) some prewriting for the upcoming conference proposal: (1) **identify** the topic/focus of your proposed paper—the issue/question/problem it raises; (2) **locate** the topic/focus in terms of a field of scholarship—who/what provides the intellectual context for the issue/problem/question the paper raises; and (3) **emphasize** your position—your central idea regarding the issue/question/problem. **Do this as soon as you solidify your topic—preferably by Wednesday, October 2. If you can't send me the above by Wednesday, write me an email anyway with preliminary ideas. Or write just to say hi.** ☺
2. Read *The Craft of Research* (ch. 12-13 and 16, pgs. 177-200 and 232-247); *The Elements of Academic Style* (ch. 20, pgs. 164-166).
3. Read Lecture 7
4. Complete Discussion Board 7

Week 8 October 7-October 13:

1. Read *The Craft of Research* (ch. 17, pgs. 248-267); *MLA Handbook* (pgs. 61-101).
2. Read Lecture 8
3. Complete Discussion Board 8
4. **Conference Paper Proposal due uploaded to Blackboard by SATURDAY, October 12, midnight (CST).** Any late proposals will be counted off 10 points per 24 hours with the first deduction occurring at the 24-hour mark. See assignment sheet for full details.

Week 9 October 14-October 20:

1. Read *The Elements of Academic Style* (ch. 26-29, pgs. 184-202).
2. View Lecture 9, "Scholarly Journal Report"
3. Complete **Discussion Board 9**, if posted.
4. **Scholarly Journal Report due uploaded to Blackboard by SATURDAY, October 19, midnight (CST)**. Any late reports will be counted off 10 points per 24 hours with the first deduction occurring at the 24-hour mark. See assignment description in syllabus for full details.
5. **Try to devote at least .5-1 hour per day this week to researching and writing. Feel free to email me at any point if you need some accountability or to toss ideas back and forth.**

Week 10 October 21-October 27:

1. Complete any reading that you may have left unfinished.
2. Complete any remaining Discussion Boards that are still eligible for credit this week no later than midnight Saturday (12 a.m. CST Sunday).
3. Prepare for the upcoming deadline in week 11. **Try to devote at least .5-1 hour per day this week to researching and writing. Feel free to email me at any point if you need some accountability or to toss ideas back and forth.**

Week 11 October 28-November 2: Finals Week

1. Happy Halloween! Hope you have some good, sugary fun.
2. **Major Research Proposal due uploaded to Blackboard by FRIDAY, November 1, midnight (CST)**. Any late proposals will be counted off 10 points per 24 hours with the first deduction occurring at the 24-hour mark.
3. Pat yourself on the back and take a deep breath—what a week! You're done!
☺

SUGGESTED RESEARCH TOOLS

- *MLA International Bibliography* (available online through the [LRC website](#); a fast way to find worthwhile scholarly studies; supplement with *Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature* or ABELL)
- *ABELL* (available online through the LRC website; a fast way to find worthwhile scholarly studies; supplement with *MLA International Bibliography*)
- *JSTOR, Project MUSE, Academic Search Complete*
- *The Year's Work in English Studies* (a valuable annual review of criticism; summarizes important scholarly studies on an author and/or work and helps you to see context of recent debates and topics of interest; in volume form in Mabee LRC reference room and online through the LRC website if you use Journal Title Search for it)
- *Essay and General Literature Index* (excellent source for studies included in edited collections; useful for supplementing all of the above; in volume form in Mabee LRC reference room and online at the LRC website)
- The Mabee LRC reference room has an excellent collection of checklists and annotated bibliographies on individual authors and literary topics; you can also find bibliographies upstairs with other books by and about the authors (use catalog and ILL if off campus).
- Despite being dated, one of the best websites for literary research is [Literary Resources on the Net](#), compiled by Jack Lynch.
- Needing more assistance? Email me! strovask@wbu.edu