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**Wayland Baptist University**

**Virtual Campus**

**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 5360 Thesis I (first term)

**Term and Year: Fall 2017**

**Full Name of Instructor: Dr. Dorothy Maria O’Connell**

**Office Phone and Email:** **maria.o’connell@wbu.edu** **806-291-1102 (Cell phone: 806-224-8234)**

**Office Hours, Building, and Location: I will be available all day on Tues/Thursday for Blackboard Chat or by email or phone**

**Class Meeting Time and Location: On BlackBoard**

**Catalog Description:** Research toward the completion of the master’s thesis; supervised by full-time faculty.

**Prerequisite:** Completion of all required coursework, minimum of 24 hours.

**Required Textbook and Resources**: We will be working with the student’s work and texts of his choosing

**Optional Materials:**

**Course outcome competencies**: Upon the conclusion of this course, students actively engaged in learning at the graduate level will be able to:

1. finalize selection and approval of thesis committee members;

2. work closely with thesis chair and other committee members to complete a study on a selected topic;

1. complete comprehensive literature review on selected topic;
2. provide a working outline of contents of thesis;
3. discuss through the use of intelligent, scholarly conversation, issues related to the selected topic and specialties as informed by reading, research, and graduate coursework.

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

**Attendance Requirements**: The course will take place entirely online. You must have a functional Blackboard account and be able to access the WBU library website, as well as articles and other material provided through proprietary databases available via the WBU library website. You also must have an active WBU email address. Your WBU email address is the usual way that I will contact you. You are strongly encouraged to visit the Blackboard login page and test your browser for Blackboard compatibility, as well as take the Blackboard Tutorial if you 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 Blackboard login page

**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.”

**Plagiarism and Conduct Statement**

 **Writing is a collaborative art. Working out ideas for your paper with an instructor, writing tutor, classmate, family member, or friend is encouraged not only for this class, but also for other classes that involve writing. Discussion and collaborative brainstorming are good. However, passing off another's *writing or ideas* as your own is plagiarism. It is unethical, it constitutes Academic Dishonesty (cheating), and it is sufficient grounds both for failure of a course and suspension from the university.**

**Common examples of plagiarism or academic dishonesty include the following:**

* **Copying any amount of text directly from an internet website, book, or other document without appropriate citation and synthesis into one’s own discussion.**
* **Paraphrasing the ideas presented in any source or oral discussion without *appropriate citation*.**
* **Using the evidence and conclusions of any source as the controlling framework for one’s own paper.**
* **Recycling work from a previous or current course, whether your own work or another student’s work.**
* **Purchasing or otherwise downloading a paper from an internet website.**

**In some writing assignments, you will be expected to incorporate scholarly sources into your document. ALL OF THE FOLLOWING must be met to constitute *appropriate citation* of any source:**

* **Including MLA, Chicago, or APA parenthetical or note-style citation format as required by the instructor.**
* **Placing borrowed text directly from another source within “quotation marks.”**
* **Introducing clearly another author’s voice into the document by means of a signal phrase (an introduction of that author).**
* **Offering, in short, a clear distinction between one’s own voice or ideas and those of any outside authors brought into the discussion.**

**Wayland Baptist University observes a ZERO TOLERANCE policy regarding Academic Dishonesty.**

* **Any suspected instance of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will first be evaluated by the instructor and discussed individually with the student.**
* **If the instructor determines that a student’s actions constitute Academic Dishonesty, the case will be filed with the school dean (as determined by course prefix) and reported to**

**the university executive vice president/provost, as per university policy. ALL CASES OF**

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY WILL RE REPORTED.**

* **Per university policy as described in the Wayland Academic Catalog, second offenses**

**WILL RESULT IN SUSPENSION FROM THE UNIVERSITY.**

* **In this course, the first instance of Academic Dishonesty may also result in a zero on the assignment.**

**Grade Appeals**

**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**

**Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:** Students will provide evidence of successful completion of the course outcome competencies by: Successfully choosing and working with a committee; Succesfully outlining and setting goals for the chosen topic; Developing a solid proposal or description for the project; Developing an annotated bibliography and literature review for the project. You will present five new sources (or more) each week with annotations.

**Tentative Schedule**: We will meet each week on chat or by phone to discuss progress on the suggested outcomes for the week and on the directions for your project. We can schedule additional meetings as needed or rearrange as needed.

Aug 20: Meet to discuss course outline, goals, possible topic, etc.

Aug 27: Meet to submit and discuss five new sources on annotated bibliography.

Sept 3: Meet to submit and discuss five new sources on annotated bibliography.

Sept 10: Meet to submit and discuss five new sources on annotated bibliography, and to discuss possible thesis committee members, as well when/how to approach potential committee members.

Sept 17: Meet to submit and discuss five new sources on annotated bibliography.

Sept 24: Meet to submit and discuss five new sources on annotated bibliography.

Oct 1: Meet to submit and discuss five new sources on annotated bibliography, and to discuss progress on thesis committee members.

Oct 8: Meet to submit and discuss five new sources on annotated bibliography.

Oct 15: Meet to submit and discuss five new sources on annotated bibliography.

Oct 22: Meet to tie up loose ends and to consider next week’s final submissions.

Nov 5: Submit

a.) revised, cumulative annotated bibliography, along with a

b.) one-page possible thesis proposal or description, and

c.) a working outline of the thesis; discuss term’s progress and plan for future success