



Campus Name
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 5312 Modern American Literature

Term and Year:

Fall 2021

Full Name of Instructor:

Dr. Erin Heath

Office Phone and WBU Email Address:

erin.heath@wbu.edu 806-291-1110 (Feel free to leave a voicemail, although this is my office phone and I will not see it if Wayland's Plainview campus is not in session.)

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:

A study of the prose, poetry, drama and/or film of twentieth-century and twenty-first-century America.

Prerequisite:

None, other than graduate-level status.

Required Textbook and Resources:

This version of Modern American Literature is being taught as a film course. There are no books for this class, but 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.

The Great Gatsby 2013 directed by Baz Luhrmann
Their Eyes Were Watching God 2005 Darnell Martin
Apocalypse Now 1979 directed by Francis Ford Coppola
Citizen Kane 1941 directed by Orson Welles
Maltese Falcon 1941 directed by John Huston
Streetcar Named Desire 1947 directed by Elia Kazan

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 .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.

Caution:

We will watch a variety of films and read a variety of books in this course. Because of the nature of this topic, 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:

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

1. define and describe the varied meanings of Modernism;
2. trace origins of Modernism in (early 20th-century) American literature;
3. discuss the application of the concept of Modernism to American literature;
4. demonstrate familiarity with additional concepts relevant to Modern American literature;
5. analyze and critique major, as well as lesser known, works of Modern American literature;
6. conduct graduate-level research on a topic related to the prose and poetry of early twentieth-century America, producing polished written and oral (or equivalent format) presentation.

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

Attendance Requirements:

As stated in the Wayland Catalog, students enrolled at one of the University's external campuses should make every effort to attend all class meetings. All absences must be explained to the instructor, who will then determine whether the omitted work may be made up. When a student reaches that number of absences considered by the instructor to be excessive, the instructor will so advise the student and file an unsatisfactory progress report with the campus executive director. Any student who misses 25 percent or more of the regularly scheduled class meetings may receive a grade of F in the course. Additional attendance policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the University's attendance policy.

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 10-point deduction per day 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:

While the nature of an online course allows students to work at their own pace, you are expected to keep up with the course materials weekly. *Please note: this is not a self-paced course.* This means that you should keep up with the readings and discussions posted each week and are responsible for turning in any assignments by the posted due date. Students who get behind in the weekly requirements will likely not do well in the course. Remember, also, that your attendance for the course is measured by your participation in the weekly discussions.

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 skype 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	30%
Annotated bibliography	15%
Research and analysis essay	45%
Short reflection and write-up functioning as “final exam”	10%

Participation in Discussion Questions and Peer Review:

Students will be responsible for the reading and discussion posts based on the readings. The draft for the peer critique and the peer critique are also participation grades. The majority of students’ participation grade will come from students’ responses to weekly discussion posts in the discussion forum.

Writing Assignments:

Students will be required to write an analysis of a scholarly article, an annotated bibliography, and a final research and analysis essay. Due dates are listed on the outline below. Each student will individually sign up for a week to do their scholarly article. 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.

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.”

*If you have an accommodation sheet from Teresa Moore (UC second floor), show it to me immediately. If you need an accommodation sheet, see Teresa Moore first, and then see me.

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.

Topic	Reading/Viewing	Weekly Assignment
Week 1 Oct 11-17	1. Syllabus 2. Reading on BB 3. Lecture on BB	1. Introductions 2. Discussion Board 3. Send me an email introducing yourself Due: Oct 17
Week 2 Oct 18-24	1. <i>The Great Gatsby</i> 2013 directed by Baz Luhrmann 2. Article on BB 3. Lecture on BB	1. Discussion Boards Due: Oct 24
Week 3 Oct 25-31	1. <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> 2005 Darnell Martin 2. Article on BB 3. Lecture on BB	1. Proposals for Final Paper 2. Discussion Boards Due: Oct 31
Week 4 Nov 1-7	1. <i>Apocalypse Now</i> 1979 directed by Francis Ford Coppola 2. Article on BB 3. Lecture on BB	1. Annotated Bibliography 2. Discussion Boards Due: Nov 7
Week 5 Nov 8-14	1. <i>Citizen Kane</i> 1941 directed by Orson Welles 2. Article on BB 3. Lecture on BB	1. Draft of final paper (10 pages) for Peer Critique 2. Discussion Boards Due: Nov 14
Week 6 Nov 15-21	1. <i>The Maltese Falcon</i> 1941 directed by John Huston, online reading, and Lecture 2. Article on BB 3. Lecture on BB	1. Peer Critique 2. Discussion Boards Due: Nov 21
Nov 22-26	Thanksgiving Break	1. Give Thanks
Week 7 Nov 27- Dec 5	1. <i>Streetcar Named Desire</i> 1947 directed by Elia Kazan 2. No article 3. Lecture on BB	1. Brief discussion board 2. Final Paper Due: Dec 5
Week 8 Dec 6-11	1. Read Instructions for Final Exam	Final Exam Due: Saturday, Dec 11