**The 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 5313-Borderland: Nature and Culture**

**Term and Year: Spring 1 2022**

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

Office Phone and Email**:** [maria.o’connell@wbu.edu](mailto:maria.oconnell@wbu.edu) **806-291-1102 806-224-8234 (Text)**

Office Hours, Building, and Location**: I will be available all day on Tues/Thursday for Blackboard Chat or by email or phone (please make an appointment if you will be calling)**

Catalog Description**:** A study of a specific time, genre, or major figure in American literature. Note: May be repeated one time when topic varies. (In this class we will be looking at borderlands literature and the interplay of nature and culture)

* Required Textbook and Resources: All textbooks will be online and available.
* Bagigalupi, Paolo *The Waterknife*
* Cather, Willa *Death Comes for the Archbishop*
* Hogan, Linda *Solar Storms*
* McCarthy, Cormac *No Country for Old Men*
  + **Other readings will be included from online sources.**

**Optional Materials:** You will need good internet access and the ability to participate in discussion board threads and to turn in written work in a timely manner. You must have software that allows you to save materials as .doc or .docx formats and some form of storage. You will be responsible for making sure that you have saved all works in progress and other materials.

**Course Outcome Competencies**: Course Overview:

This course is structured to examine the interplay of nature and cultures in the American borderlands. The various readings will examine conflicts between nations, economic interests, religious and spiritual worldviews, and between humans and nature. We will look for the solutions and compromises that are explored in literary works about people making their way in the borderlands.

**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:

**Semiweekly Responses to Study Prompts: 30%**

1 Regarding “Responses to Study Prompts”: these are decidedly not “essays,” merely substantial organized thought per prompt. Select one of the possible prompts for each week and submit your considered 1-2 response by Tuesday and Friday mid-night of each course week. There is no order in which to answer the prompts and you might cite freely but meaningfully—by extending or challenging ideas—from your colleagues. Borrowings, of course, require in-text acknowledgments, whether of word or idea.

**Threaded Peer Reviews of Responses: 20%**

2 Respond to any two of the posted responses from your colleagues—one from the Tuesday submissions and one from the Friday submissions. Each review should consist of a single, well-developed paragraph (you will touch on your peer’s argument, question, and critique). This must go beyond, “I agree” or “good job” to really engage your peers. Ask questions, bring up ideas, or explain WHY you agree/disagree. Submit your considered reviews by Wednesday and Saturday midnight of each course week.

**Paper proposal: 20%**

3.) Midterm detailed proposal for final paper: **3-4 pgs** with a detailed plan for how you wish to approach a piece of borderlands literature and the way it contributes to/portrays the ideas of culture clashes, particularly in harsh natural environments. You may use 19th , 20th, and 21st-century American texts, films, etc. to further illustrate your thinking. This proposal should include your basic sources and the methodology you will use to approach the various topics. This is a rumination; a chance to brainstorm arguments and show understanding. I will expect it to be in MLA format and fairly formal, but it can be fragmentary to some extent. I need to be able to evaluate your argument and themes and give you feedback on how to finalize your essay.

**Final paper 30%:**

4). Final paper: **5-8 pp** should be an extended argument about concepts of frontier, exploration, conquest, and conversion (or variations of these) and how they can be identified in various works of early American literature. You are also welcome to make connections to current literature, film, or historical events and how they continue or trouble those literary/mythological/historical concepts.

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**Tentative Schedule**: **Subject to (slight) revision as necessary! This is basic overview and will evolve with time and discussion.**

**Borderlands: Nature and Culture**

**Week 1**.

**Peer responses (You only have to respond to prompt 2 this week) (due Saturday May 28)**

**Week 2. Read and discuss**

**Two Peer Responses (due Saturday June 4)**

**Week 3.**

**Peer responses (due Saturday June 11).**

**Week 4**

**Peer Response: (Due Saturday June 18)**

**Week 5:**

**Peer Response: (Due Saturday)**

**Week 6:**

**Paper proposal due!!**

**Peer Response: Due Saturday**

**Week 7:**

**Week 8: Final wrap-up. Available by email or chat to conference about the final paper. (Final due week 11 10-15 page fully developed research essay)**

**Discussion Prompt: Answer BOTH of these. This is the only prompt this week.**

1. **What concepts do you take away from this class? Be as specific and clear as possible.**
2. **How do borderlands literature reflects attitudes toward nature and culture in the 20th and 21st centuries? How does it show the intertwining and the difficulties of the meeting of different cultures at the border? How does it show the effect nature has on human life and vice versa?**