



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 5316 Special Topics in English

Term and Year:
Spring 2, 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.)

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 of special interest to graduate students and not covered elsewhere in the curriculum. May be repeated one time when topic varies.

Prerequisite:
None, other than graduate-level status.

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

1. describe the distinct characteristics of the subject, genre, or theme selected for the course, and demonstrate how the subject, genre, or theme is connected to major literary movements;

2. connect major world events to the subject, genre, or theme selected for the course;
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 pieces;
5. conduct graduate-level research on a piece of literature related to the subject, genre, or theme selected for the course;
6. use above research to complete an accomplished oral [or comparable format] presentation and well-written essay.

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

Required Textbook and Resources:

This version of American Studies is being taught as a film course. You will buy the textbook and you will be required to rent or purchase films for this class. You may either get the DVD or watch a 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.

Books: *Extraordinary Bodies: Figuring Physical Disability in American Culture and Literature* by Rosemarie Garland Thomson 0231183178 (Any edition)

Films (All films will be accompanied with an online article or chapter from the textbook):

Cinemability: The Art of Inclusion Directed by Jenni Gold

Rainman Directed by Barry Morrow 1988

Scent of a Woman Directed by Martin Brest 1992

The Elephant Man Directed by David Lynch 1980

Girl Interrupted Directed by James Mangold 1999

Murderball 2005 Directed by Henry-Alex Rubin and Dana Adam Shapiro

Silver Linings Playbook 2012 Directed by David O. Russel

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. discuss a selection of American authors, works, or characteristics found in the given American period, movement, or type;
2. identify cultural, philosophical, historical, and/or religious influences on the selected pieces of American literature;
3. analyze, interpret, and evaluate selected pieces of American literature;
4. conduct graduate-level research on a selected piece of American literature;
5. use above research to complete an accomplished oral [or comparable format] presentation and well-written essay.

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 Blackboard IM (erin.heath) throughout the day and 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, but the best way to get in touch with me quickly is likely through email.

Technical Support:

If you need assistance with your Wayland email, call IT @ (806) 291-3540, OR go here: http://www.wbu.edu/current_students/student_email/default.htm

If you encounter other technical problems contact the Virtual Campus (VC) via this link: http://www.wbu.edu/academics/online_programs/contactus.htm , 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%
Analysis of an article for discussion	15%
Annotated bibliography	10%
Research and analysis essay	45%
Short reflection and write-up functioning as “final exam”	5%

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 literature 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.”

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 or viewings ought to be completed *prior* to doing any posts in the discussion forum.

Topic	Reading/Viewing	Weekly Assignment
Week 1 March 22-28	1. Documentary <i>Cinemability: The Art of Inclusion</i> Directed by Jenni Gold 2018 2. Lecture on Blackboard and Thomson, <i>Extraordinary Bodies</i> Chapter 1 pg 1-18	1. Introductions 2. Discussion Board Due: March 28
Week 2 March 29-April 5	1. <i>Soloist</i> 2009 2. Lecture and reading on BB	1. Discussion Boards Due: Monday April 5
Week 3 April 6-11	1. <i>The Elephant Man</i> 1980 2. Lecture on Blackboard and Thomson, <i>Extraordinary Bodies</i> Chapter 3 pg 52-80	1. Proposals for Final Paper due: April 11 2. Discussion Boards Due: April 11
Week 4 April 12-18	1. <i>Scent of a Woman</i> 1992 Directed by Martin Brest 2. Lecture and article on BB	1. Annotated Bibliography due: April 18 2. Discussion Boards Due: April 18
Week 5 April 19-25	1. <i>Girl Interrupted</i> 1999 2. Lecture and article on BB	1. Draft of final paper (10 pages) for Peer Critique Due: April 25 2. Discussion Boards Due April 25
Week 6 April 26-May 2	1. <i>Murderball</i> 2005 2. Lecture and article on BB	1. Peer Critique: Due May 2 2. Discussion Boards Due May 2
Week 7 May 3-9	1. <i>Silver Linings Playbook</i> 2012 2. Lecture	1. Brief discussion board May 9 2. Final Paper Due: May 9
Week 8 May 10-15	1. Read Instructions for Final Exam	Final Exam Due <u>Saturday May 15</u>