# **WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

**Plainview, TX**

**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 3340/ DRMA 3340 Studies in Drama

**Term and Year:** SP2023 VC01

**Full Name of Instructor:** Dr. Kimberlee Mendoza

**Office Phone and WBU Email Address:** 806-291-1106

**Office Hours, Building, and Location:** Gates Hall 200

**Class Meeting Time and Location:** ONLINE

**Catalog Description:** Regularly alternating topics that pertain to the study of theatrical plays and the art of playwriting. May be repeated one time when topic varies. May be repeated one time when topic varies.

**Prerequisite:** ENGL 1302 or higher

## **Required Textbook and Resources:**

***NOTE: Some weeks will be pdf copies and others you will need to get from the bookstore (you can also get a version online if it is cheaper. See the ones with stars. These are the ones that are not pdf.)***

\**Everyman and Medieval Miracle Plays*. ISBN: 9780804855402

\* Baldwin, James. *Blues for Mister Charlie: A Play*. ISBN: 9780679761785

Miller, Arthur. *All My Sons*. (Pdf in course)

Shakespeare. *Othello*. (Pdf in course)

Cristofer, Michael. *The Shadow Box*. (Pdf in course)

Monologues (Pdf in course)

Here are some links to the play in video form:

Shadow Box <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpnwgbS8ZWQ>

Blues for Mister Charlie: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zu5NeX7u5Ss>

All My Sons. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rtTA8FbJA04>

Othello. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtwMc61hrO4>

Optional Materials: **You may order the play scripts in Amazon if you need a hardcopy version.   
They are typically pretty inexpensive online.**

**Course Outcome Competencies:** Upon the conclusion of this course, students actively engaged in learning will be able to:

1. Describe, analyze, interpret, and judge the craft of a play script.
2. Conduct college-level research on selected scripts.
3. Understand play structures and the art of storytelling within the theatrical medium.
4. Demonstrate the ability to write a script intended for theatre.
5. Critically offer feedback and revisions of both student plays and published scripts.

**Attendance Requirements:** As stated in the Wayland Catalog, students 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.

**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.

**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.”

## **Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:**

### Play Reviews

The student will read and watch plays (scripts are included in Blackboard, student will need to rent video to watch) then write a play review. These may be in first person, but keep it professional. Reviews should include:

* **Introduce—First paragraph will introduce us to the playwright and the history behind the play. Where was it first performed? Did it win any awards? Is there anything special to note about this play and its history?**
* **Describe—Second paragraph should describe the play. What is the plot? Who are the characters? What is the conflict? (This is surface level—what you can *see* on the stage, not the “why” behind the script.)**
* **Analyze—The third paragraph analyzes the play by breaking down the plot, the characters, critically thinking through the questions of “why” the different events or characters were written in, but try not to completely interpret it yet (that is paragraph 4). Are there literary devices used (symbolism, metaphors, flashbacks, allegories, imagery, etc.)? Who is the most important character (protagonist) and what does he or she want? Who or what stands in the protagonist’s way (antagonist)? Are all the characters necessary? Why or why not?**
* **Interpret—The fourth paragraph interprets your analysis of the play. What does all this mean? What is the author trying to communicate and why?**

**(The best way to describe the difference between analysis and interpretation is this: Analysis is, “the apple is brown, mushy, and sweet.” The interpretation would be, “the apple is rotting.”)**

* **Judge—Paragraph five is all about your opinion. Did you like it? Why or why not? Be specific, not general.**

### Final: Writing Assignment

**Students will use all of the texts from this course to write a paper on the “Human Condition.”**

Details:

* MLA formatted (double-spaced, TimesNewRoman, 12-point font, with signature block and reference page)
* Main points should be broken up with headers.
* This is an opinion paper, so students may use first person, but no second person “you” and the tone and content should still be academic in nature (no slang, clichés, contractions, etc.).
* The various plays should be used as references throughout the paper to emphasize the thesis statement (the last sentence of the introduction). The thesis must be an arguable statement about the human condition. Students may also use the Bible as a reference.
* A *minimum* of three plays must be used to back up the student’s position throughout the paper. Note: Papers that just mention the plays, and do not synthesize the information, will be marked down. Students should use the scripts as their research into the human condition, as if the plays themselves are credible as a source. However, students have the right to *disagree* with a particular author’s stance and can counter with scripture.
* The paper should be 900-1,200 words. Word counts will be strongly counted.
* This IS your final for this course. It is worth 33.5% of your grade.

Formal Outline Details for Week 7:

1. Thesis (should be a strong argument that can stand alone and is not dramatic)
2. Point #1 (should point back to thesis)
3. Point #2 (should point back to thesis)
4. Point #3 (should point back to thesis)
5. Concluding thought

### POINTS MATRIX

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| --- | --- |
| **Assignment** | **Possible Points** |
| Play Reviews (5x100) | 500 |
| Monologue Review | 100 |
| Final Paper on the Human Condition (outline = 50) | 200 |
| Discussion Questions (25x8) | 200 |
| Total Points | 1,000 |

Late Assignments: Late assignments receive a **20% deduction for EACH week they are late**. Anything turned in after the due date will be considered late so avoiding procrastination is critical. Technological issues are not considered valid grounds for late assignment submission (should there be a technical issue, a print screen with time stamp may be provided).

**NOTE: EXTRA CREDIT points if you attend a campus production and write a review. However, extra credit is only allowed if you have turned in all your work. You must complete what is due before you are allowed to turn in something extra.**

### Course Schedule:

# Discussions are due Friday and Sunday. Homework is due SUNDAY at midnight of that week, unless otherwise indicated.

### WEEK 1

**Topic:**  *The Human Condition & Faith*

**Reading:** Read several of the miracle plays in *Everyman and Medieval Miracle Plays*

**Assignment:** DAIJ (instructions above) one of the miracles plays. It should be clearly marked with headers (Describe, Analyze, Interpret, and Judge). Instructions on how to do this are also in the PowerPoint presentation. It should be MLA formatted, double-spaced, TimesNewRoman, 12-point font, with a signature block at the top.

**Discussion:** Introduce yourself to the class. Then discuss the human condition as it pertains to faith. What did the various plays say about the human condition? What does the Bible say about the human condition? Ask a question of your fellow students for this discussion. Your initial post is due by Friday (10 sentences or more), and your responses to at least two people are due by Sunday at midnight.

### WEEK 2

**Topic:**  *Human Condition and Lust for Money*

**Reading:** Read *All My Sons*

**Assignment:** DAIJ (instructions above) one of the miracles plays. It should be clearly marked with headers (Describe, Analyze, Interpret, and Judge). Instructions on how to do this are also in the PowerPoint presentation. It should be MLA formatted, double-spaced, TimesNewRoman, 12-point font, with a signature block at the top.

**Discussion:** Discuss how Keller failed to fulfil his social obligations and to recognize his role in society. How is money a problem? What does the Bible say about money? Have you ever known someone who has struggled with money? Explain. Ask a question of your fellow students for this discussion. Your initial post is due by Friday (10 sentences or more), and your responses to at least two people are due by Sunday at midnight.

### WEEK 3

**Topic:**  *The Human Condition and Jealousy*

**Reading:** Read *Othello*

**Assignment:** DAIJ (instructions above) one of the miracles plays. It should be clearly marked with headers (Describe, Analyze, Interpret, and Judge). Instructions on how to do this are also in the PowerPoint presentation. It should be MLA formatted, double-spaced, TimesNewRoman, 12-point font, with a signature block at the top.

**Discussion:** “Beware the green-eyed-monster.” In essence, he is talking about jealousy. What is the downfall of Othello? What could have prevented this tragedy? What does the Bible say about jealousy? Why is jealousy such a powerful issue? Have you ever known someone who has struggled with jealousy? Explain. Ask a question of your fellow students for this discussion. Your initial post is due by Friday (10 sentences or more), and your responses to at least two people are due by Sunday at midnight.

### WEEK 4

**Topic:**  *The Human Condition & Death*

**Reading:** Read *The Shadow Box*

**Assignment:** DAIJ (instructions above) one of the miracles plays. It should be clearly marked with headers (Describe, Analyze, Interpret, and Judge). Instructions on how to do this are also in the PowerPoint presentation. It should be MLA formatted, double-spaced, TimesNewRoman, 12-point font, with a signature block at the top.

**Discussion:** This play is about three terminal cancer patients. Each is dealing with the fragility of life as it comes to an end. What do you take away from their experiences? What does the Bible say about death? What is your own perspective on the subject? Ask a question of your fellow students for this discussion. Your initial post is due by Friday (10 sentences or more), and your responses to at least two people are due by Sunday at midnight.

### WEEK 5

**Topic:**  *The Human Condition & Racism/Hatred*

**Reading:** Read *Blues for Mr. Charlie*

**Assignment:** DAIJ (instructions above) one of the miracles plays. It should be clearly marked with headers (Describe, Analyze, Interpret, and Judge). Instructions on how to do this are also in the PowerPoint presentation. It should be MLA formatted, double-spaced, TimesNewRoman, 12-point font, with a signature block at the top.

**Discussion:** This week’s topic is a difficult one. What are some key elements from the play? Is this play relevant today? Explain your answer. Critics believe that this play focuses on issues of race, discrimination, and Christianity. What do you think about its approach? Would you do anything differently? It was published in 1964, during a lot of racial upheaval in America. Would it be written differently in 2022? Explain. Ask a question of your fellow students for this discussion. Your initial post is due by Friday (10 sentences or more), and your responses to at least two people are due by Sunday at midnight.

### WEEK 6

**Topic:**  *Various (Monologues)*

**Reading:** Read at least 10 monologues

**Assignment:** Write a sentence or two on each monologue of analysis and judgement. Mark your favorite (the one you can identify with most) and explain why you like it. Assignment should be MLA formatted, double-spaced, TimesNewRoman, 12-point font, with a signature block at the top.

**Discussion:** Give an overview of your favorite monologue and why you liked it. Ask a question of your fellow students for this discussion. Your initial post is due by Friday (10 sentences or more), and your responses to at least two people are due by Sunday at midnight.

### WEEK 7

**Topic:**  *The Human Condition and Reflection*

**Reading:** Review the reading

**Assignment:** Turn in an outline for your final paper (see instructions above). Assignment should be MLA formatted, double-spaced, TimesNewRoman, 12-point font, with a signature block at the top. (Start writing your paper which is due on Saturday of next week!)

**Discussion:** Write a reflection about the human condition. Use scripture and the plays to back up your points. Ask a question of your fellow students for this discussion. Your initial post is due by Friday (10 sentences or more), and your responses to at least two people are due by Sunday at midnight.

### WEEK 8

**Topic:**  *The Summation of the Human Condition*

**Reading:** Review reading

**Assignment:** This is your final. Write a paper on the “Human Condition.” (Instructions above.) THIS IS DUE NO LATER THAN SATURDAY AT NOON—NO EXCEPTIONS.

**Discussion:** Write a reflection of this course. Your initial post is due by Saturday (10 sentences or more), but you do not need to respond to anyone this week.

**Following statement must be included following Course requirements and grading criteria**:

**“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 Vice President of Academic Affairs 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.”**

UPDATED: KRM 9/28/22