



WBU Online
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 5304.VC01 — Studies in British Literature: Gothic and Sensation Fiction

Class Meeting Time and Location:

Class should be available any time, day or night, through Blackboard (BB) online.

Term and Year:

Summer 2022 (8-week session), May 30 – July 23, 2022

Instructor:

Dr. Karen Beth Strovas

Email:

Email me any time at strovask@wbu.edu. I will get back to you as soon as possible, nearly always during office hours or within 24-48 hours.

Office Location and Phone Number:

My office is physically located on Wayland's Plainview campus in Gates Hall 202A, 806-291-1114. For serious concerns, you may call or text my cell (806) 292-3543. I have small kids, so please respect sleeping hours.

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: graduate standing.

Textbooks and Resources:

- Radcliffe, Ann. *The Italian*. Oxford World Classics, 2017 edition (3rd). 978-0-19-870443-0.
- Braddon, Mary Elizabeth. *Lady Audley's Secret*. Penguin Classics, 1998. 978-0-14-043584-9.
- Collins, Wilkie. *The Moonstone*. Modern Library Classics (Random House), 2001. 978-0-37-575785-3.
- **Please note** that all three of these texts are in the public domain and available as digital reads or downloads through various e-book outlets, such as [Project](#)

[Gutenberg](#), Kindle ebooks, or your local library. I do not mind if you use free books. Likewise, if you already own other editions of these books, use the ones you own! I will be using the editions designated above to prepare my lectures slides and notes, though I will likely refer to chapter numbers alongside page numbers in my lectures, so if you are completing the reading assignments in a differently-paginated book or ebook, you should be able to follow along with lecture material just fine. That being said, I love owning my own copies of books for studying and annotating purposes and—if you do too—then I encourage you to try to purchase yours from the [WBU bookstore](#).

- As this course will take place entirely online, you must have reliable internet and access to software for writing papers (such as Microsoft Word) and software capable of reading documents produced in .html and .pdf formats; also, have access to backup media such as a USB flash drive or Dropbox, etc.
- Regular access and known passwords to WBU Blackboard and WBU email account. Your WBU email is likely the only way that I will contact you.

Course Outcome Competencies:

At the end of the course, students actively engaged in learning will be able to:

1. discuss a representative selection of British literary works of gothic and sensation fiction;
2. analyze and compare characteristics, trends, elements, and/or themes in the works;
3. demonstrate the ability to read critically and communicate persuasively about the works selected;
4. conduct graduate-level research on a piece of literature related to the subject or theme selected for the course;
5. use above research to complete an essay that demonstrates graduate-level skills in research, writing, argument, and analysis.

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

Attendance Requirements:

This course is set up on a weekly “module” basis. Assignments and discussions will be presented and due each week (Monday-Sunday). Therefore, a *minimum* “attendance” of accessing the Blackboard (BB) class at least twice a week is required in order to complete the course successfully. Participation and attendance will be determined through submission of discussion posts or other assignments. Failure to submit two or more assignments (including discussion boards) is grounds for receiving an F. Makeup work will be offered at the instructor's discretion and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Any authorized makeups must be completed within the time limit set by the instructor; otherwise, the makeup grade will be zero. Finally, recall that WBU’s catalog stipulates students who miss 25% or more of class time will automatically fail the course.

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." Note: If you would like me to accommodate a disability, please provide documentation within the first week of class or as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty:

No form of cheating will be tolerated. *Plagiarism*—copying or purchasing someone else’s words or ideas and presenting them as your own—is not only a form of cheating but also a serious academic offense. In the very least plagiarism or related forms of cheating will result in an F on the work in question, with the possibility of an F in the class. An official report will also be filed with the Provost/Academic VP. See the [Wayland catalog](#) for further information on the penalties of plagiarism.

Class Communication, Announcements, and Updates:

Official announcements will be posted in the “announcements” section of our Blackboard course home page. Blackboard automatically forwards these announcements to your WBU email, as well. It is your responsibility to set up your Wayland email account and check it daily. If you need assistance with your **Wayland email, call IT @ (806)291-3540, OR [access assistance online from IT regarding your email account.](#)**

Technical Aspects of the course:

If you encounter technical problems, find some assistance at [WBU Online](#).

- You are encouraged to visit the [WBUonline Blackboard login page](#) as soon as possible and work through the [Learn Module tutorials](#) if 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 [WBUonline Blackboard login page](#) or the contact info above.
- Note: It’s been my experience Blackboard works better with Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome than with Microsoft Internet Explorer. You may want to download a Chrome browser to use for class if you don’t already have one.

Class Expectations and Respect for Others:

Students are expected to treat one another and their instructor with respect in all communication, whether that is through email or Blackboard Discussion Boards. Please choose your words well.

***Grade Appeal Policy (from Student Handbook):**

“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...The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.”

*Required by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

Grading Chart:

- Active participation in any posted Discussion Board question 40%
- Preliminary Essay Email (due after week 6) 5%
- Research & Analysis Essay + MLA-style Works Cited (due mid-week 8) 35%
- Final Reflection/Exam (due late week 8) 20%

Assignment Descriptions:

This class is made up of five types of assignments: Scheduled Weekly Readings, Discussion Board Postings, a preliminary essay email (topic proposal), Research & Analysis Essay, and Final Exam. More detailed assignment descriptions will be uploaded to "assignment sheets" in Blackboard within at least three weeks of the assignment's due date, except for the final exam, which will be posted one week before the exam is due. All written assignments other than emails must be submitted in electronic form through Blackboard on their due dates. **Late research essays will be penalized 5 points per 24-hour period and will not be accepted after the due date/time of the final exam.**

1 & 2. Reading Homework and Discussion Boards Participation–

Students are responsible for reading, studying, and completing the assigned material by the assigned due dates. Each week, I will present at least one or two topics for discussion from the reading or a related subject on the Blackboard discussion forum for this course. You are expected to participate helpfully, thoughtfully, and respectfully in each discussion.

Assessment of Discussion Boards: In general, if you follow directions, turn your DB in on time, answer my prompt fully and thoughtfully, and respond to at least two classmates, you will receive between 90-100%. I will automatically deduct 10 points at each 24-hour mark late. I will deduct 10 points for each missing response to a classmate. Each DB post will be assessed on a case-by-case basis for quality and completion.

3. The **Preliminary Essay email** is an email sent from you to Dr. Strovas (strovask@wbu.edu) detailing your early ideas and planning for the Research & Analysis Essay. Email me the following:

-a 3-6 sentence (or longer) topic synopsis of your upcoming essay.

-a clear, arguable, working thesis statement for your essay.

THESIS STATEMENT – a sentence or group of sentences towards the beginning of an essay that summarizes the overarching opinionated claim of your essay, which will be developed and supported in the essay itself. It may be complemented by a statement of purpose or objective for your essay.

An argument essay does not simply explain an idea; it attempts to prove, disprove, confirm, or enlarge on an idea. (In literary analysis, this usually means that you are defending or justifying your interpretation of the text and demonstrating its usefulness to the ongoing scholarly conversation.)

-a preliminary list of 3-5 sources and why they've caught your eye.

4. The **Research & Analysis Essay** is an essay of 10-12 minimum double-spaced, typed pages (minimum = all the way to the bottom of 10), on a topic relating specifically to one or more of the works or authors assigned this semester.

Your objective is to use your own reasoning and literary analysis skills in conjunction with views from scholarly sources to present a well-argued and convincing thesis.

Your topic should relate to some aspect of gothic, sensation, or detective fiction genres, such as a social issue examined or complicated by any of novels on the syllabus (e.g. gender roles, mental or physical illness, foreignness, Othering, sexuality, socioeconomic status, politics, etc.), or another relevant subject relating to any eighteenth- or nineteenth-century author or theme studied in this class.

In addition to using your literature as a primary source, locate and use at least 5 secondary scholarly sources (books or journal articles that analyze the novel). Your secondary sources can be used as historical, supporting, or counterargument material; they should relate directly to your thesis or topic. Any material in the introductions, appendices, or notes in your course books may count as source material—email me if you have a question about something you would like to use. A Works Cited page in MLA citation format is required, and your essay will not be graded without it. See the assignment sheet for more details.

How I will grade: This essay will be evaluated on a rubric according to the following criteria: (1) control and responsible development and organization of discussion; (2) presentation of ideas and wording from primary and secondary sources as evidence (your essay should demonstrate that you understand how to use summary, paraphrase, and quotation properly); (3) analysis of, and ability to draw conclusions from, this evidence; (4) clarity and polish of writing; (5) proper use of MLA in-text citation style; (6) following directions.

The Research & Analysis Essay is due by July 21, midnight (12 a.m. Central Time, July 22). See assignment sheet for more details.

5. **Final Exam:** One exam, a final, will be given during the term. This exam is likely to be a two-part essay in which you 1) consider the primary readings in the context of a critical-thinking question, 2) reflect on your experiences with the literature and themes of this course. Your test question(s) will be provided one week before the exam is due.

The Final Exam is due by July 23, noon (12 p.m. Central Time). See assignment sheet for more details.

Letter Grade Scale: My grading scale for this course is as follows: 89.45–100 is an A; 79.45–89.44 is a B; and so forth. Anything below 59.45 is an F. Weighted grades are averaged according to a 100-point scale and are totaled at the end of the semester. Please talk with me if you are having concerns (or happiness!) about your grades.

Special Topics in British Literature: Gothic and Sensation Fiction

Course Schedule/Outline

This schedule is subject to revision, although due dates for graded assignments *will never be earlier* than currently listed. Students will be notified of any changes.

Week 1: Monday, May 30–Sunday, June 5:

1. Read "Introduction to ENGL 5504" on Blackboard (BB)
2. Read Week 1 Announcement on BB
3. Complete Survey to be counted present for university census by June 1!!
4. Read Radcliffe's *The Italian* first half (Volume I, Ch. 1 to Volume II, Ch. 8).
5. View Video Lectures 1a and 1b and read corresponding notes
6. Complete Week 1 Discussion Board post

Week 2: Monday, June 6–Sunday, June 12:

1. Read Week 2 Announcement
2. Read Radcliffe's *The Italian* second half (Volume II, Ch. 9 to the end of the book, Volume III, Ch. 13).
3. View Video Lectures 2a and 2b and read corresponding notes.
4. Read any notes included in the content folder
5. Complete Week 2 Discussion Board post

Week 3: Monday, June 13–Sunday, June 29:

1. Read Week 3 Announcement
2. Read P. B. Shelley's *The Cenci*, complete play (Five Acts).
3. View Video Lectures 3a and 3b
4. Complete Week 3 Discussion Board post
5. Brainstorm themes for potential essays on *The Italian* and/or *The Cenci*.

Week 4: Monday, June 20–Sunday, June 26:

1. Read Week 4 Announcement
2. Read Collins's *The Moonstone*, Prologue + "First Period," and through the First Narrative (Miss Clack's Narrative) of the "Second Period."
3. View Video Lectures 4a and 4b and read corresponding notes.
4. Complete Week 4 Discussion Board post.

Week 5: Monday, June 27–Sunday, July 3:

1. Read Week 5 Announcement
2. Complete Collins's *The Moonstone*, "Second Period," second through eighth narratives + Epilogue, reading to the end.
3. View Video Lectures 5a and 5b and read corresponding notes
4. Complete Week 5 Discussion Board post
5. Brainstorm themes for essays. Start researching in the online databases.
6. Start *Lady Audley's Secret*. Look ahead to upcoming assignments.
7. Pat yourself on the back—what a week! (Happy 4th! Eat some ice cream.)

Week 6: Tuesday, July 5–Sunday, July 10:

1. Read Week 6 Announcement
2. Read Braddon's *Lady Audley's Secret*, Volumes 1-2
3. View Video Lectures 6a and 6b and read corresponding notes
4. Complete Week 6 Discussion Board post
5. Prepare your essay topic. Begin choosing your key passages for analysis, secondary sources (see assignment sheet for research topic suggestions), and try to devote at least .5-1 hour per day this week to pre-writing such as outlining, taking notes on sources, etc.

Week 7: Monday, July 11–Sunday, July 17:

1. Read Week 7 Announcement
2. Read and complete Braddon's *Lady Audley's Secret*, Volume 3
3. View Video Lectures 7a and 7b and read corresponding notes
4. Email me 1) a short 3-6 sentence topic synopsis of your upcoming Research & Analysis essay, 2) a clear, arguable thesis for your essay, and 3) a consideration of what kind of research you're doing and what you've found thus far. Do this as soon as you solidify your topic and focus—due no later than Wednesday of Week 7. See page 4 of the syllabus for further instruction about a thesis, and see the assignment sheet for more info about the essay in general.
5. Try to devote at least .5-1 hour per day this week to drafting your essay, etc.
6. Complete Week 7a Discussion Board post on the readings.
7. Complete Week 7b Blackboard essay check-in with progress report.

Week 8: Monday, July 18–Saturday, July 23:

1. Read Week 8 Announcement
2. **Research & Analysis Final Essay due to Blackboard by midnight Central on Thursday, July 21 (12 a.m. CST, July 22)** —Please see assignment sheet for full details.
3. **Final Exam due to Blackboard by 5 PM central, Saturday, July 23—** Please see assignment sheet for full details.
4. Dr. Strovas will post final grades on or by Tuesday, July 26.