



**WBU Online**  
**School of Humanities and Leadership**

**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 3311.VC01 – Twentieth-Century British Literature

**Term and Year**

Summer 2026: June 1 – July 25, 2026

**Instructor**

Dr. Karen Beth Strovas

**Phone Number and Email**

Office (806) 291-1114, cell (806) 292-3543, 8 am–8 pm only for texts, please. Otherwise, use email. StrovasK@wbu.edu (**email is the best way to reach me!**)

**Office hours, Building, and Location**

By appointment or M-F 9-11 a.m. & 1-5 p.m. except on Wednesday afternoons and during university holidays. Office located at Gates Hall 202A on the WBU Plainview campus.

**Class Meeting Time and Location**

Fully-online asynchronous course located on Blackboard.

**Catalog Description**

British fiction, poetry, and/or drama of the 20th century. **Prerequisite:** ENGL 1302

**Required Textbook and Resources:**

- *To the Lighthouse*, Virginia Woolf, Dover Edition, 978-0-486-85084-9
- *The Remains of the Day*, Kazuo Ishiguro, Random House, 978-0-307-57618-7
- *The Thirteenth Tale*, Diane Setterfield, Washington Square Press, 978-1-4165-4053-3
- **[Note]** The above-mentioned novels will be included in your course through Pioneer Academic Access if you stay opted-in to the PAA/Equitable Access program. If you opt out, you will be responsible for acquiring the books on your own. I will mostly be using the editions listed above to prepare my lecture 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. You may also be able to find these books in a nearby library to borrow for free.
- 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.

**Please note:** Some of the language and subject matter of the literary pieces may be offensive to some readers, with trigger warnings of physical or sexual assault, loss of a loved one, bullying, trauma, animal abuse, drug or alcohol use, and racially-motivated slurs. I do not necessarily condone the language or content in each piece, but I have assigned each one for its creative, artistic, or discussion value.

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

1. discuss a representative selection of twentieth- and twenty-first-century British literary works;
2. analyze the works' themes and issues;
3. differentiate the cultural, social, and historical contexts in which the works were written;
4. demonstrate comprehension of limited scholarship on assigned literary works;
5. articulate this comprehension in a research project.

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

### **Attendance Requirements**

This WBU Online course is set up on a weekly “module” basis. This means assignments, readings, discussions, papers, etc. will generally 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 discussion board posts and/or submission of assignments. With that in mind, failure to submit two or more required assignments (including Discussion Board posts) is grounds for receiving an F in the course, regardless of final grade average. 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. 25% of 8 weeks is 2 weeks.

### **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 VP of Academics. See the catalog for further information on the penalties of plagiarism. [Link to Statement on Academic Integrity](#)

- a. No use of any generative AI tools permitted in ENGL 3318.
  - i. Students are required to create and produce all work themselves or with assigned group members. Any work submitted that has used an AI generative tool like ChatGPT will be in immediate violation of the academic integrity policies for the course and WBU.
  - ii. All assignments must be fully created, designed, and prepared by the student(s).
  - iii. Any work that uses generative AI will be treated as plagiarism.

### **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 Disability Services Coordinator and Academic Coach serves as the coordinator of students with disabilities and must be contacted concerning accommodation requests (office (806) 291-1057. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

### 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 Blackboard Ultra tutorials are not familiar with how the service works.
- Make sure your browsers are up to date.

### Class Communication, Announcements, and Updates

Official announcements not made in class will be sent to our Blackboard class online, and 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](#).

### 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.

### Wayland Baptist University Multidisciplinary Writing Center (FREE!! Online appointments open!)

Make a tutorial appointment request online at the [Tutorial Services website](#). Love supporting your fellow students and want to work as a tutor? I can write a recommendation letter for you to apply for this student-worker position. :)

### Grading Chart:

- Active participation in any posted Discussion Board question	50%
- Preliminary Essay Email (due after week 6)	5%
- Research & Analysis Essay + MLA-style Works Cited (due mid-week 8)	30%
- Final Reflection/Exam (due late week 8)	15%

### Assignment Descriptions:

This class is made up of five types of assignments, which you'll see described in this section: 1) Scheduled Weekly Readings, 2) Discussion Board Postings, 3) a preliminary essay email (topic proposal), 4) Research & Analysis Essay, and 5) 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 or before their due dates.

### 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. If I determine that you are using generative A.I. to complete your assignment, they will be graded according to my Academic Honesty policy (see syllabus pg. 2).

3. The **Preliminary Essay email** is an email sent from you to Dr. Strovask ([strovask@wbu.edu](mailto: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 with 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 5-7 double-spaced, typed pages (minimum = all the way to the bottom of 5 + WC page), 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 the course theme, and may focus on any issue examined or complicated by any of works on the syllabus (e.g. storytelling and the creation of narrative, gender roles, marriage relations or relationships, siblings or family dynamics, socioeconomics or class politics, servants' work or servitude, an author's style and discourse, dialogue and/or interiority, mother or father figures, social criticism, issues of WWI or WWII, women's work or lifestyles, mental or physical illness, letter writing and epistolary forms, etc.) or any other relevant subject relating to any author, novel, or theme studied in this class.

In addition to using at least one assigned novel from the syllabus or film adaptation of the novel as a primary source, locate and use at least three secondary scholarly sources (books, book chapters, essays, documentary films, or journal articles). Your sources can be used as critical, historical, supporting, or counterargument material; they should relate directly to your thesis or topic. Any assigned critical readings may count as source material—email me if you have a question about something you would like to use. Websites are allowed and, if used, must be cited, but they do not count toward your three secondary sources. 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 Thursday, July 23, midnight (12 a.m. Central Time, July 24). 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 25, 5 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.

### **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 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.

### **Course Schedule/Outline**

Readings for this class are located through your inclusive course ebooks on Blackboard. This schedule is subject to revision, although changes are unlikely. Students will be notified in advance of any changes.

#### **Week 1: Monday, June 1–Sunday, June 7:**

1. Read “Introduction to ENGL 3311” on Blackboard (BB) and full syllabus.
2. Read Week 1 Announcement on BB
3. **Complete First Required Assignment to be counted present for university census by June 3.**
4. Read Virginia Woolf’s *To the Lighthouse*, sections I and II (includes chs. 1-19 of section I and chs. 1-10 of section II)
5. View Video Lectures 1a and 1b
6. Complete Week 1 Discussion Board post

#### **Week 2: Monday, June 8–Sunday, June 14:**

1. Read Week 2 Announcement
2. Read Woolf’s *To the Lighthouse*, section III (includes chs.1-13 of section III to finish the novel)
3. Read Virginia Woolf’s “On Modern Fiction” (PDF).
4. Listen to Woolf’s voice on radio broadcast (transcript of her words posted on BB).
5. View Video Lectures 2a and 2b
6. Complete Week 2 Discussion Board post
7. Brainstorm themes for potential essays on *To the Lighthouse*.

#### **Week 3: Monday, June 15–Sunday, June 21:**

1. Read Week 3 Announcement
2. Read Diane Setterfield’s *The Thirteenth Tale*, first third of novel called “Beginnings,” pages 1-143.
3. View Video Lectures 3a and 3b
4. Complete Week 3 Discussion Board post

**Week 4: Monday, June 22–Sunday, June 28:**

1. Read Week 4 Announcement
2. Read Diane Setterfield's *The Thirteenth Tale*, second third of novel from section called "Middles," pgs. 147-288, through chapter called "Hair."
3. View Video Lecture 4a
4. Complete Week 4 Discussion Board post

**Week 5: Monday, June 29–Sunday, July 5:**

1. Read Week 5 Announcement
2. Complete Diane Setterfield's *The Thirteenth Tale*, pgs. 289-406, beginning at a chapter called "Rain and Cake" and reading to the end.
3. View Video Lectures 5a and 5b
4. Complete Week 5 Discussion Board post—let me know if you need an extra day for the holiday
5. Brainstorm themes for potential essays on *To the Lighthouse* or *Thirteenth Tale*. Start researching in the WBU online databases.
6. Pat yourself on the back—what a week! You're past the halfway point. 😊  
(Happy 4th of July week! Eat some ice cream or pie for me.)

**Week 6: Monday, July 6–Sunday, July 12:**

1. Read Week 6 Announcement
2. Read Kazuo Ishiguro's *The Remains of the Day*, first half
3. Read Lecture 6a notes and View Video Lecture 6b
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 13–Sunday, July 19:**

1. Read Week 7 Announcement
2. Read and complete Kazuo Ishiguro's *The Remains of the Day*, second half
3. View Video Lectures 7a, b, and c
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 7 Discussion Board post.

**Week 8: Monday, July 20–Saturday, July 25:**

1. Read Week 8 Announcement
2. **Research & Analysis Final Essay due to Blackboard by midnight Central on Thursday, July 23 (12 a.m. CST, July 24)** —Please see assignment sheet for full details.
3. **Reflective Final Exam due to Blackboard by 5 PM central, Saturday, July 25**—Please see assignment sheet for full details.
4. Dr. Strovas will post final grades on or by Tuesday, July 28.