

WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
PLAINVIEW CAMPUS
SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS

Wayland 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 title and number: Interpretation & Performance of Literature (COMS1302 PL01)

Term: Winter VC 2018

Name of instructor: Dr. Yahui Zhang

Office phone and email address:

Phone: (806) 291-1085

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Office hours, building, and location:

Hours: 12:00 – 3:00 PM Wednesdays

Office: Herral Arts Complex, room 113

Class meeting time and location:

Online

Catalog description:

Theories and skills related to the selection, analysis, adaptation, rehearsal, performance, and evaluations of readings from a variety of literary genres.

Prerequisites: None

Required textbook and resource materials:

Gura, T., & Lee, C. I. (2016). *Oral Interpretation* (12th ed.). New York: Routledge.
A hard-cover black binder

Optional materials:

How to read literature like a professor: A lively and entertaining guide to reading between the lines by THOMAS C. FOSTER

Course outcome competencies:

The student will be able to:

- define and use a vocabulary of oral interpretation and its history.
- cultivate an appreciation of diverse literary forms and styles.
- analyze literary selections for the purpose of oral interpretive performance.
- develop and apply personal vocal and physical techniques to successfully communicate a literary work to an audience.
- demonstrate the skills of adapting literature for group performance, collaborating with a group of interpreters, and performing literature as an ensemble.
- evaluate the effectiveness of oral interpretative performances.
- use writing to express ideas about oral interpretation.

Attendance requirements:

Class attendance is mandatory. Three unexcused absences will result in the loss of a letter grade. Any student who misses 25% or more of the regularly scheduled class meetings will receive a grade of 'F' in the course.

An excused absence includes illness, family emergency or funeral (call or email the professor to let her know what is happening), attendance at an approved WBU event such as athletic team competition or academic conference (bring the notice from the appropriate sponsor), or unavoidable company travel for full-time employees. No absence will be excused without the professor's approval.

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:

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.

ASSIGNMENT #1: Exploring the Tools: Working with Literary Analysis (10 points)

- **Choose a prose selection or poem at the end of Chapter 2** for this written assignment, and follow the guidelines for literary analysis set forth in this chapter. Read the sample analyses carefully; they are excellent and thorough.
- Italicize and use bold print for every literary component discussed (Example: ***connotative, persona, locus, climax, variety, contrast***, and so on). Choose literary components selectively; this analysis is not expected to be exhaustive.
- This assignment affords you the opportunity to “try out the tools” of literary analysis without the additional burden of a formal performance. However, you may be asked to prepare a passage from your selection as a short demonstration.

- Written analysis must not exceed 3 pgs.

Assignment #2: Peer Evaluation and Critique (30 points)

- Peer evaluation and critique is designed to foster critical thinking and to cultivate ability to evaluate the effectiveness of oral interpretative performances.
- Use the rubric to evaluate a student's performance and share with the instructor the scores.
- Write a formal critique that emphasizes the strengths of a student's performance. Please also engage in constructive criticism to help the student grow as an oral interpreter by giving specific suggestions on how the student can make his or her performance better.
- Critique within 2-3 pgs.

Assignment # 3: Sharing and Critiquing a Book on CD or an audio book (30 points)

- Choose a book on CD to listen and finish listening to the book by Week 5.
- Construct a 10-minute presentation that incorporates both your analysis of the interpretation and examples to illustrate your point. Please focus on the oral interpretation of the CD by highlighting the use of voice, characterization, etc.
- Please also identify the strengths and weaknesses of the oral interpreter that presents the book you have chosen. Indicate what you can learn from him or her. Be specific.

ASSIGNMENT #4: Oral Interpretive Performance and Analysis of Prose (40 Points: Performance 30 and analysis 10)

- **Analyze and prepare a performance of prose.** Follow guidelines set forth in Chapters 2 thru 6 as you embark on the work of analyzing your selection and rehearsing your performance. Include an introduction for your selection. This formal presentation requires a hard cover, black binder for the text. Dress appropriately.
- Time limit not to exceed 10 min.
- The written analysis should follow the guidelines set forth in Chapters 2-6. For the written analysis, italicize and use bold print for every literary component discussed. Organize your written analysis into two sections with a creative introduction and an insightful conclusion:

1. Literary Analysis--Address selected literary components discussed in Ch. 2 that are specifically relevant to the shaping of your performance.
2. Performance Preparation—Address specific vocal and physical components, and explain your strategies in preparing for a successful performance (Ch. 3 and 4). (Submit a copy of your selection with the analysis if it is not in our text.)

NOTE: *Italicize in bold* all literary and performance components.

(Submit a copy of your selection with the analysis if it is not in our text.)

- Suggested length of analysis not to exceed 4 pgs.

ASSIGNMENT #5: Oral Interpretive Performance and Analysis of Poetry (40 points: Performance 30 and analysis 10)

- **Select several poems dealing with the same or similar theme for written analysis and performance.** Review Chapters 2, 3, 4, 9 and 10 as you embark on the work of analyzing your selection and rehearsing your performance. Thoughtfully prepare an introduction for your selection. This formal presentation requires a hard cover, black binder for the text. Dress appropriately. Total time: 10 minutes MAXIMUM.
- Written analysis must follow the guidelines specified for assignment #4 and not exceed 4pgs.

Participation and attendance (50 points): Besides the assignments described above, there will be 50 points reserved for weekly virtual participation in Discussion Forum for Week 1 to Week 10. I will post questions for discussions or have activities for you to complete. All discussions and activities should be completed by 11:59 PM Central time on Sundays. For each missed online discussion, 5 points will be deducted and you will also be counted as absent. Your answer or comment should be at least 100 words long and in complete sentences following the convention of good writing (2.5 point); and demonstrate level-two or level-three thinking (2.5) – you have to show your competency in applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating.

***** For Assignments #4 and #5, you are required to videotape your interpretive performance.** *Please get familiar with VidGrid in Blackboard system or open an account on YOUTUBE. All speeches need to be videotaped and made accessible on the assigned weekly Discussion Forum.

Missed Assignments and Late Work:

Assignments or activities missed due to unexcused absences will not be made up. Makeup opportunities for assignments/speeches are only offered in the case of **excused absences *with legitimate extenuating circumstances***. Makeup assignments must take place or be handled within *1 week* of the original presentation date or due date, or you will receive *0 points* for that assignment. ***When you miss class for an unexcused absence, no makeups are offered.***

Tentative schedule:

Please note that this is a tentative schedule for topics that will be explored this semester. Slight changes may be made as the semester progresses.

| Weeks | Topics | Assignments |
|-----------|--|---|
| 1 – 11/11 | Ch. 1 and constructivism; HOW summary | Weekly Discussion A two-minute self-intro |
| 2 – 11/28 | Ch. 2; HOW summary | Weekly Discussion Decide on an audio book to listen to |
| 3 – 12/2 | Ch. 3 & Appendix A | Weekly Discussion Assignment 1 due |
| 4 – 12/9 | Ch. 4 | Weekly Discussion Assignment 2 due |
| 5 – 12/16 | Ch. 5 & sample videos | Weekly Discussion |
| 6 – 1/6 | Appendix B; handout on performance studies | Assignment 3 due |
| 7 – 1/13 | Ch. 6 & narrative paradigm | Weekly Discussion |
| 8 – 1/20 | Ch. 7 & Ch. 8 | Weekly Discussion Assignment 4 due |
| 9 – 1/27 | Ch. 9 & 10 | Weekly Discussion |
| 10 – 2/3 | Ch. 11 | Weekly Discussion Assignment 5 due |
| 11 – 2/10 | Reflections | |

Nov. 24 – 30 Thanksgiving No Classes

Dec. 22 – Jan. 4 Christmas & New Year No Classes

Additional Information:

Email: Your Wayland email address is the official line of communication between you and the university. You must make sure your email address is established, functioning and is also **monitored at least once a day** as you will receive important information about your classes, financial aid, billing, emergency situations, etc. through this email.

Blackboard: Please check your grades regularly on the Blackboard throughout the semester and report any discrepancy you find promptly to ensure accuracy of the grade book.