



**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 3310.VC01 — Nineteenth-Century British Literature

**Class Meeting Time and Location:**

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

**Term and Year:**

Summer 2023 (8-week session), May 29 – July 22

**Instructor:**

Dr. Karen Beth Strovas

**WBU Email:**

strovask@wbu.edu (email is the best way to reach me!)

**Office Location:**

Gates Hall 202A, Plainview, TX campus

**Phone:**

office 806-291-1114 (check office hours before calling this number),  
cell 806-292-3543 (you may text with questions—tell me your name and class)

**Office hours:**

Monday through Thursday, 9:00-6:00 PM most summer weeks  
Zoom, phone call, or in-person meetings may be available by appointment.

**Catalog Description:** British fiction, poetry, and/or drama of the 19th century.

**Prerequisite:** ENGL 1302

**Required Textbook and Resources:**

- All four of the assigned novels or novellas are in the public domain and available as digital reads or downloads through various e-book outlets, such as [Project Gutenberg](#) or your local library. Additionally as a supplement to a book, you can find audiobook versions of novels in public domain through [Librivox](#). If you already own other editions of these books, use the ones you own! I do

not mind if you use free books. I will be using print texts to prepare my lectures notes, though I will likely refer to chapter numbers rather than page numbers in my lectures, so if you are completing the reading assignments in a differently-paginated book or e-book, you should be able to follow along with lecture material just fine.

- That being said, I love reading paper books and owning my own copies of books for studying and annotating purposes and—if you do too—then I encourage you to purchase affordable copies ASAP.
- 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:** Upon the conclusion of this course, students actively engaged in learning will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an improved understanding of thematic preoccupations of nineteenth-century British fiction, correlated with significant authors and their representative works.
2. Evaluate the ways in which class, gender, and social issues are explored in nineteenth-century fiction.
3. Analyze a primary text within relevant literary, historical, and/or social contexts.
4. Demonstrate effective methods of analysis and an ability to evaluate and respond critically to a literary text.

*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 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	50%
- Preliminary Essay Email (due after week 6)	5%
- Comparative Analysis Essay + MLA Works Cited (due mid-week 8)	35%
- Final Reflection/Exam (due late week 8)	10%

### **Assignment Descriptions:**

This class is made up of five types of assignments, which you'll see described below: 1) Scheduled Weekly Readings, 2) Discussion Board Postings, 3) a preliminary essay email (topic proposal), 4) Comparative Analysis Essay, and 5) Final Exam. More detailed assignment descriptions will be uploaded to 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. **Late Comparative Analysis 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. I encourage video discussion posts!

**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](mailto:strovask@wbu.edu)) detailing your early ideas and planning for the Comparative 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.)

**4.** The **comparative analysis** is a 5- to 6-page argument essay that requires you to defend a thought-provoking thesis which should be developed by reading at least two novels closely; choose from the texts assigned on the syllabus. Essentially, this is a *close reading analysis essay* with a *comparative approach*. Put two or more texts into conversation with one another to discern how they align or differ in meaningful ways, enhance one another's meaning, and/or problematize a theme.

Your analysis should examine a particular problem, character, event, theme, setting, or significant idea that appears in both novels. Hone in on a single controlling idea or even one specific related moment in the text so that you can successfully argue a convincing thesis in a short space. Use short, quoted excerpts and description from the novels to focus and substantiate your argument. Focus on PRIMARY sources. **The scope of the paper should be quite narrow, in order that you may be thorough and specific within this scope.** However, it is my expectation that you apply your findings in some way to a broader understanding or view of the novels or theme as you conclude.

**TOPICS:** While you have flexibility in choosing a topic for your essay's focus, some promising themes to consider would be creator vs. creature; questions of gender or gendered monstrosity; subjectivity and Otherness; self-consciousness; mental or physical illness; religious othering; sleep or dreams or altered sleep-states; characterization of medical professionals; early or "proto" science fiction; mother and father figures or substitutes; East vs. West; considerations of Colonialism/Nationalism/Empire; rational detection vs. irrational monstrosity; or the hybridization of human-monster.

**See the assignment sheet for more details.**

#### **How I will grade:**

These analyses will be evaluated on a rubric according to the following criteria: (1) control and responsible development of discussion; (2) presentation of novels' language as evidence; (3) analysis of, and ability to draw conclusions from, this evidence; (4) clarity and polish of writing; (5) proper use of MLA documentation style; (6) following directions.

**The Comparative Analysis Essay is due by July 20, midnight (12 a.m. Central Time, July 21).**

**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 22, 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.

## **ENGL 3310 Nineteenth-Century British Literature 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 29–Sunday, June 4:**

1. Read "Introduction to ENGL 3310" on Blackboard (BB)
2. Complete "Required First Assignment" on BB, a survey on academic integrity
3. Read Week 1 Announcement on BB
4. Read Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (chs. 1-15)
5. View Week 1 Video Lectures
6. Complete Week 1a and 1b Discussion Board posts by Sunday, June 4

### **Week 2: Monday, June 5–Sunday, June 11:**

1. Read Week 2 Announcement
2. Read and complete Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, full novel (chs. 16-24)
3. View Week 2 Video Lectures
4. Complete Week 2 Quiz on Chapters 16-21 by Saturday, June 10.
5. Complete Week 2 Discussion Board post through end of novel (chapter 24) by Sunday, June 11
6. Brainstorm themes for potential essays on *Frankenstein*.

### **Week 3: Monday, June 12–Sunday, June 18:**

1. Read Week 3 Announcement
2. Read and complete Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, full novella (chs. 1-10)
3. View Week 3 Video Lectures
4. Complete Week 3 Discussion Board post by Sunday, June 18
5. Brainstorm themes for potential essays on *Frankenstein* and/or *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.
6. Get ahead if you can! *Dracula* is a long novel, and we will be moving quickly!

### **Week 4: Monday, June 19–Sunday, June 25:**

1. Read Week 4 Announcement
2. Read Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (chs. 1-16)
3. View Week 4 Video Lectures
4. Complete Week 4 Discussion Board post by Sunday, June 25

### **Week 5: Monday, June 26–Sunday, July 2:**

1. Read Week 5 Announcement
2. Read and complete *Dracula*, full novel (chs. 17-27 + Note)
3. View Week 5 Video Lectures
4. Complete Week 5 Quiz by Saturday, July 1.
5. Complete Week 5 Discussion Board post by Sunday, July 2.

6. Brainstorm themes for potential essays on *Frankenstein*, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and/or *Dracula*.
7. Pat yourself on the back—what a week! You're past the halfway point. ☺  
(Happy 4th of July weekend! Eat some ice cream.)

### **Week 6: Monday, July 3–Sunday, July 9:**

1. Read Week 6 Announcement
2. Read H. G. Wells's *The Island of Dr. Moreau* (chs. 1-13)
3. View Week 6 Video Lectures
4. Complete Week 6 Quiz on Chapters 1-10 by Saturday, July 8.
5. Complete Week 6 Discussion Board post by Sunday, July 9.
6. Prepare your Comparative Analysis essay topic. Begin choosing your key passages for analysis (see assignment sheet for 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 10–Sunday, July 16:**

1. Read Week 7 Announcement
2. Read and complete H. G. Wells's *The Island of Dr. Moreau* (chs. 14-22)
3. View Week 7 Video Lectures
4. Email me [strovask@wbu.edu](mailto:strovask@wbu.edu) the preliminary topic email as detailed on the assignment sheet.
5. **Try to devote at least .5-1 hour per day this week to the writing of your essay.**
6. Complete Week 7a DB post on the readings by Sunday, July 16.
7. Complete Week 7b DB essay check-in & progress report by Monday, midnight July 17.

### **Week 8: Monday, July 17–Saturday, July 22:**

1. Read Week 8 Announcement
2. **Comparative Analysis Final Essay due to Blackboard by midnight Central on Thursday, July 20 (12 a.m. CST, July 21)** —Please see assignment sheet for full details. Request 24-hour extension in advance if needed.
3. **Final Exam due to Blackboard by 5 PM central, Saturday, July 22—** Please see assignment sheet for full details.
4. Dr. Strovask will post final grades on or by Tuesday, July 25.