

WBU Logo 1

# **WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

School of Language and Literature

Virtual Campus

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.

## **SYLLABUS**

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:HUMA5300 The Humanities & Interdisciplinary Thought

Term and Year:Summer 2025

Full Name of Instructor:Dr. Kimberlee Mendoza

Catalog Description:An advanced-level overview of the humanities and practice in the principles of interdisciplinary thinking and research.

Prerequisite: None

### Required Textbook and Resources:

Hudson, Suzanne & Molly LeClair. (2003). *Thinking and Writing in the Humanities*, 1st Edition. Wadsworth Publishing. ISBN: 978-0534621551 (ORDER [ONLINE](https://www.amazon.com/Thinking-Writing-Humanities-Suzanne-Hudson/dp/0534621554) here if you opt out of inclusive access).

You will be doing your own research and collecting articles.

Course outcome competencies: Upon the conclusion of this course, students actively engaged in learning will be able to:

* 1. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of the arts and humanities.
  2. Communicate how the humanities contributes to an understanding of society and culture in a historical, biblical, and social context.
  3. Articulate an informed personal response and critically analyze works in the arts and humanities.
  4. Express with confidence ideas, interpretations, and responses to the humanities.
  5. Analyze works, figures, and artists in religion, philosophy, literature, and the visual and performing arts in an interdisciplinary context.

Attendance Requirements: As stated in the Wayland Catalog, students enrolled at one of the

University’s external campuses 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.”

Late Assignments:Late assignments receive a ***20% deduction*** for 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).

[Link to WBU’s Statement on Academic Integrity](https://www.wbu.edu/academics/writing-center/Academic%20Integrity%20Statement%20Pol%208.4.1%20Attch%20Oct%2020222.pdf), and reference one of the following in regard to how generative artificial intelligence (GAI) such as ChatGPT may or may not be used in this course:

* 1. No use of any generative AI tools permitted.
     1. 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.
     2. All assignments must be fully created, designed, and prepared by the student(s).
     3. Any work that uses generative AI will be treated as plagiarism.

## **Course Assignments**

### Reflection Journals

Students will journal each week on the reading, the lectures, and the art they encounter daily. This is not simply a regurgitation of the lecture and reading, but an analysis and emotional response to what they are learning and experiencing. Though this may be written in first person, it should exclude 2nd person “you” or “your.” It should still be written in an academic tone and adhere to the rules of proper grammar and punctuation. They should a minimum of **four pages** and include concrete examples, analysis, and research Students will be expected to use DAIJ (Describe, Analyze, Interpret, & Judge) throughout this course in all evaluations.

### Online Discussion

Students will be expected to create prompts each week on the reading. Students will then click into the forum and write responses of 150 words or longer on a minimum of three people. These should be *quality* responses. (Note: Questions are created by MA students only. In a situation where there are less than 3 MA students, Dr. Mendoza will create an additional prompt.)

“Quality responses” are more than “I agree” or “I like what you said.” They must have meaning that adds to the conversation. Please use specific examples and research in your posts. Your initial question must be written in Blackboard by **Monday at midnight** each week and your comments should be posted no later than Sunday at midnight. NO LATE DISCUSSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED. All posts should still be written in an academic tone and adhere to the rules of proper grammar and punctuation.

### Interdisciplinary Humanities Research Paper

Students will conduct in-depth research and write a paper (12-15 pages) integrating the various genres (minimum of three) within the humanities. Students should have a minimum of 12 quality sources (you may use the ones you collected throughout this class) and use the standard rules of grammar and punctuation. (The Bible, literature texts, and/or historical texts may count as sources.) The research paper should include a strong thesis statement that supports an argument or comparison and a creative title. The research should explore the human experience through critical analysis and interpretation of themes found in creative expression demonstrated in the humanities. Students may use either MLA or Turabian to cite their sources.

### Paper Presentation

The presentations should cover:

* The research they conducted and why
* Their argument and conclusion of their research
* Their personal response to the research and the humanities as a whole

The presentation must be an 10-15-minute oral presentation.

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| **Assignment** | **Points** |
| First Assignment | 2 |
| Reflection Journals (6x40) | 240 |
| Online Discussions (7x40) | 280 |
| Annotated Bibliography | 60 |
| Outline | 43 |
| Research Paper (Draft 75) | 275 |
| Presentation | 100 |
| TOTAL POINTS | 1,000 |

## **Course Schedule:**

### Week 1 – Introduction to the Humanities

### Reading: Research the term “Humanities” and find two or more articles to use in this week’s discussion and your assignment. Please cite them according to MLA or Turabian standards. Hudson Chapter 2

### Discussion: Using your articles and this week’s lecture, answer: Why are the humanities important? Why should we study them at all? Do you think the humanities are going away? Why or why not? How do you define art? How do you define good art? (Be sure to use citations to back up your thoughts.) Then pose a question for others in the class to answer regarding your thoughts. (Instructions are above.)

### Assignment: Journal (see instructions above). Complete your reading and watch the lecture, then explain your thoughts on how you would define art. What have you learned from the reading and the lecture? What art do you see in your home and community? You should also include any additional research on the topic.

### Look ahead: You will be expected to create the prompt for next week’s discussion. Be sure to look ahead, as it will be due Monday at midnight.

### Week 2 – Painting, Sculpture, & Architecture

### Reading: Research the topics for this week and find three or more articles (one for each topic) to use in the discussion and your assignment. Please cite them according to MLA or Turabian standards.

### Discussion: You will be creating a prompt for this week. It should be well thought out and cover all three topics. You may have three questions in your prompt. It must be posted by Monday at midnight. Be sure to answer at least two of the other prompts by Sunday at midnight.

### Assignment: Journal (see instructions above) Find a painting, a sculpture, and also view some architecture in your home and/or community. What do you see? Now, take a photo of each one and include them in your reflection. Using DAIJ, evaluate each one separately. Your DAIJ should be thorough and thought out. Be sure to include responses to the reading and lectures.

### Look ahead: You will be expected to create the prompt for next week’s discussion. Be sure to look ahead, as it will be due Monday at midnight.

### Week 3 – Literature & Theatre

### Reading: Find two or more articles about literature and theatre to use in the discussion and your assignment. Please cite them according to MLA or Turabian standards.

### Discussion: You will be creating a prompt for this week. It should be well thought out and cover all three topics. You may have three questions in your prompt. It must be posted by Monday at midnight. Be sure to answer at least two of the other prompts by Sunday at midnight.

### Assignment: Journal (see instructions above) Shakespeare said that “All the world is a stage,” do you agree with that statement or not? Explain. How is humanity reflected in both theatre and literature? (Be sure to cite.) Find a poem on the internet and DAIJ the poem. The more complex the poem, the more you will be able to say in your DAIJ. Include the poem in your assignment. Also, what have you learned from your articles?

### Look ahead: You will be expected to create the prompt for next week’s discussion. Be sure to look ahead, as it will be due Monday at midnight.

### Week 4 – Music & Dance

### Reading: Find two articles about music and dance that you find fascinating.

### Video: Watch *Laundry & Tosca*

### Discussion: You will be creating a prompt for this week. It should be well thought out and cover all three topics. You may have three questions in your prompt. It must be posted by Monday at midnight. Be sure to answer at least two of the other prompts by Sunday at midnight.

### Assignment: Discuss music in the context of the humanities, and how music and dance influence individuals, society, and culture. Also, thinking back to the Laundry & Tosca, how might God have used her gifts? How might God use your gifts? Complete the reading of your articles and watch the dance video link and write about how dance has changed over the decades.

### Look ahead: You will be expected to create the prompt for next week’s discussion. Be sure to look ahead, as it will be due Monday at midnight.

### Week 5 – Photography, Film, TV, & Video Art

### Reading: Find two articles on any of the above topics. Hudson Chapter 1

### Discussion: You will be creating a prompt for this week. It should be well thought out and cover all three topics. You may have three questions in your prompt. It must be posted by Monday at midnight. Be sure to answer at least two of the other prompts by Sunday at midnight.

### Assignment: Journal (see instructions above) What is the power of photography, film, TV, and Video Art. How do these four things influence society? Or does society influence them? Explain. Give both positive and negative arguments for their influence. Give some concrete examples. Also, watch a movie on the list, then use DAIJ to evaluate the movie.

### In addition, your Research Paper *Thesis* & Formal *Outline* are Due

### Look ahead: You will be expected to create the prompt for next week’s discussion. Be sure to look ahead, as it will be due Monday at midnight.

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### Week 6 – Philosophy, History, & Religion

### Reading: Find three articles (one for each topic), as they relate to the humanities. Hudson Chapter 7

### Discussion: You will be creating a prompt for this week. It should be well thought out and cover all three topics. You may have three questions in your prompt. It must be posted by Monday at midnight. Be sure to answer at least two of the other prompts by Sunday at midnight.

### Assignment: *Journal* (see instructions above) Up until now, the humanities have been artistic in nature, but this week, we look at the outliers. How do you suppose philosophy, history, and religion fall into the humanities? Please give a strong argument complete with citations to defend your answer. .Discuss how philosophy, history, and religion influence your life personally. Give concrete examples; Also, your *Annotated Bibliography* for the final paper is Due

### Week 7 – Interdisciplinary Thinking

### Reading: Find two articles that combine two or more of the humanities or on interdisciplinary thinking. Hudson Chapter 3-4, 8

### Discussion: This week, we look at interdisciplinary thinking and the language of the humanities. How do the various forms of the humanities intersect in daily life? For example, how might art be used in business? Could music influence medicine? Give concrete examples of how at least three or more humanities might show up in regular life and careers. Be specific, not generic. (Be sure to cite.) Pose a question for your peers.

### Assignment: *Journal* (see instructions above) Pick any topic you’d like, but then write how that topic incorporates history, art, and at least one more of the other humanities into it. This is a journal entry, so it is first person, not an essay, but a train of thought. The point is to see if you can show the cross-over genres/disciplines; The Research draft is due (at least 6 pages)

### Week 8 \_ Humanities Presentations

### Reading: No Reading

### Assignment: Interdisciplinary Research Paper and Presentation DUE Saturday by midnight.

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.

Updated: KRM 12/3/24