



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: Jane Austen Sampler

Class Meeting Time and Location:

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

Term and Year:

Fall 2, 2020 (8-week session), October 19 – December 19, 2020

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.

Recommended Textbooks and Resources:

- Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*. Penguin Classics, 2002. 978-0-14-143951-8.
- Austen, Jane. *Persuasion*. Penguin Classics, 2003. 978-0-14-143968-6
- Austen, Jane. *Emma*. Penguin Classics, 2003. 978-0-14-143958-7
- **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](#) 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 Penguin print** editions listed 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. describe the distinct characteristics of the subjects and themes of Jane Austen's novels within the context of British literature;
2. demonstrate the ability to read critically and communicate persuasively about the works selected;
3. conduct graduate-level research on a piece of literature related to the subject or theme selected for the course;
4. 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 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:

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| - 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) | 35% |
| - Final Reflection/Exam (due late week 8) | 10% |

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 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. Strovask (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 10-12 double-spaced, typed pages (minimum = all the way to the bottom of 10 + 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. gender roles, marriage relations and marriage market, sisterhood, socio-economic politics, Austen's style and discourse, dialogue and/or interiority, mother or father figures or substitutes, satire, nature and exercise, mental or physical illness, letter writing and epistolary forms, etc.) or any other relevant subject relating to any novel or theme studied in this class.

In addition to using at least one Jane Austen novel or adaptation as a primary source, locate and use at least three secondary scholarly sources (books, book chapters, essays, documentaries, 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. 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 December 16, midnight (12 a.m. Central Time, December 17). 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 December 19, 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: Jane Austen Sampler

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, October 19–Sunday, October 25:

1. Read "Introduction to ENGL 5304: Jane Austen Sampler" on Blackboard (BB)
2. Read Week 1 Announcement on BB
3. Read Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, Volumes I and II, through chapter 42 (Penguin ed. pages 5-232).
4. View Video Lectures 1a and 1b
5. Complete Week 1 Discussion Board post

Week 2: Monday, October 26–Sunday, November 1:

1. Read Week 2 Announcement
2. Read and complete Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, Volume III, through chapter 61—the end of the book (Penguin ed. pages 235-367).
3. View Video Lectures 2a and 2b
4. Complete Week 2 Discussion Board post
5. Read through the Research & Analysis Essay assignment sheet from start to finish. Email any questions you have regarding the essay assignment. Brainstorm themes for potential *Pride and Prejudice* topics.
6. OPTIONAL assignments for an enriched or enhanced week of learning, or to prepare for your upcoming research essay:
 - a. view any *Pride and Prejudice* TV, film, or vlog adaptation for comparison value (see my list of recommendations at the end of the syllabus)
 - b. Read scholarly article: [Stovel, Nora, "'Will You Dance?': Film Adaptations of *Pride and Prejudice*," *Persuasions: Jane Austen Journal Online* 34.1: \(Winter 2013\).](#)
 - c. Read scholarly article: [Alvarez, Monica, "Deciphering Mr. Darcy: Gendered Receptions through Time," *Persuasions: Jane Austen Journal Online* 38.1: \(Winter 2017\).](#)
 - d. Research man's role in marriage/parenthood, nineteenth-century conceptions of marriage, mothers and mother figures, sisterhood in literature, the entail, travel, social class, women's accomplishments, money, balls or dancing, etc.

Week 3: Monday, November 2–Sunday, November 8:

1. Read Week 3 Announcement
2. Read Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, Volume I and through chapter 5 of Volume II, chapters 1-17 (Penguin ed. pages 1-152).
3. View Video Lectures 3a and 3b
4. Complete Week 3 Discussion Board post
5. Begin researching topics or starting to read *Emma* as time permits.

Week 4: Monday, November 9–Sunday, November 15:

1. Read Week 4 Announcement
2. Read and complete Jane Austen's *Persuasion* through Volume II or chapter 24, the end of the book (Penguin ed. pages 153-236)
3. View Video Lectures 4a and 4b
4. Complete Week 4 Discussion Board post
5. Consider whether *Pride and Prejudice* or *Persuasion* interests you for the Research & Analysis Essay. Brainstorm topics. Email me if you're not sure.
6. RECOMMENDED: Complete as much of *Emma* Volume I as time permits.
7. OPTIONAL assignments for an enriched or enhanced week of learning, or to prepare for your research essay:
 - a. view any *Persuasion* TV, film, or vlog adaptation for comparison value (see my list of recommendations at the end of the syllabus)
 - b. Read scholarly article of your choice from [Volume 39 Number 1 of *Persuasions*](#) dedicated to *Persuasion*.
 - c. Research nineteenth-century conceptions of military or naval employments, marriage, widowhood and remarriage, travel, visiting the town of Bath for health and diversion, debts of the gentry, social class, music, walking and taking exercise, surrogate mothers, etc.

Week 5: Monday, November 16–Sunday, November 22:

1. Read Week 5 Announcement
2. View R&A Essay Writing video
3. Read Jane Austen's *Emma*, Volumes I and II, through chapter 36 (Penguin ed. pages 1-291). Continue reading on into Volume III as time permits.
4. View Video Lectures 5a and 5b
5. Complete Week 5 Discussion Board post (post + replies before Thanksgiving holiday)
6. Consider whether *Emma* or one of our previous novels interests you for the Research & Analysis Essay. Brainstorm topics. Start looking for key textual evidence to support your ideas or preliminary thesis/claim. Work through the library catalogs and databases for article sources or books to request through inter-library loan.
7. Pat yourself on the back—what a week! You're past the halfway point. 😊

Thanksgiving holiday all week: Monday, November 23–Sunday, November 29: no assignments due. Eat some pie!

Week 6: Monday, November 30–Sunday, December 6:

1. Read Week 6 Announcement
2. Read and complete Jane Austen's *Emma*, Volume III, chapters 37-55—the end (Penguin ed. pages 293-453).
3. View Video Lectures 6a and 6b
4. Complete Week 6 Discussion Board post
5. Finalize your essay topic. Begin choosing your key passages for analysis, secondary sources (see last page of syllabus for research tools), and try to

devote at least .5-1 hour per day this week to pre-writing such as outlining, taking notes on sources, freewriting textual observations/analyses, etc.

6. **Email me** 1) a short 3-6 sentence topic synopsis of your upcoming 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 Saturday, midnight, of Week 6.
7. OPTIONAL assignments for an enriched or enhanced week of learning, or to prepare for your research essay:
 - a. view any *Emma* TV, film, or vlog adaptation for comparison value (see my list of recommendations at the end of the syllabus)
 - b. Read scholarly article: [Easton, Celia A., "The Encouragement I Received': *Emma* and the Language of Sexual Assault," *Persuasions: Jane Austen Journal Online* 37.1: \(Winter 2016\).](#)
 - c. Read scholarly article: [Bui, L. Bao, "Epistolary Culture in *Emma*: Secrets and Social Transgressions," *Persuasions: Jane Austen Journal Online* 38.1: \(Winter 2017\).](#)
 - d. Research nineteenth-century conceptions of illness or invalidism, marriage, widowhood and remarriage, governesses or women's education, class biases, music and women's diversions, father figures in Austen, surrogate mothers, etc.

Week 7: Monday, December 7–Sunday, December 13:

1. Read Week 7 Announcement
2. View videos if posted.
3. Complete Week 7 Discussion Board post
4. **Try to devote at least .5-1 hour per day this week to the writing of your essay.**

Week 8: Monday, December 14–Saturday, December 19:

1. **Research & Analysis Final Essay due to Blackboard by midnight Central on Wednesday, December 16 (12 a.m. CST, Dec. 17)** —Please see assignment sheet for full details.
2. Review for Final Exam.
3. Complete Final Exam: **submit test materials to BB by Saturday, December 19, noon (12 p.m. CST).** Any late exams will be counted off 5 points per hour. See assignment sheet for full details.
4. Dr. Strovas will submit final grades by Tuesday, December 22.

SUGGESTED RESEARCH TOOLS

- *MLA International Bibliography* (available online through the [LRC website](#); a fast way to find worthwhile scholarly studies; supplement with *Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature* or ABELL)
- ABELL (available online through LRC website; a fast way to find worthwhile scholarly studies; supplement with *MLA International Bibliography*)
- *JSTOR*, *Project MUSE*, *Academic Search Complete*
- *The Year's Work in English Studies* (a valuable annual review of criticism; summarizes important scholarly studies on an author and/or work and helps you to see context of recent debates and topics of interest; in volume form in Mabee LRC reference room and online through the LRC website if you use Journal Title Search for it)
- *Essay and General Literature Index* (excellent source for studies included in edited collections; useful for supplementing all of the above; in volume form in Mabee LRC reference room and online at the LRC website)
- The Mabee LRC reference room has an excellent collection of checklists and annotated bibliographies on individual authors and literary topics; you can also find bibliographies upstairs with other books by and about the authors (use catalog and ILL if off campus).
- Needing more assistance? Email me! strovask@wbu.edu

RECOMMENDED ADAPTATIONS

- *Pride and Prejudice* (1940, Greer Garson, Laurence Olivier); *Pride and Prejudice* (1995 BBC miniseries; Jennifer Ehle and Colin Firth); *Pride & Prejudice* (2005, Keira Knightley and Matthew Macfadyen); *Bride and Prejudice* (2004 Bollywood version, Aishwarya Rai); *Bridget Jones's Diary* (2001, Renée Zellweger, Colin Firth, and Hugh Grant); [The Lizzie Bennet Diaries](#) (2012-2013 vlog YouTube series)
- *Persuasion* (1995; Amanda Root and Ciarán Hinds); *Persuasion* (2007 TV movie, Sally Hawkins and Rupert Penry-Jones); [Rational Creatures](#) (2019 vlog YouTube series)
- *Emma* (1996; Gwyneth Paltrow, Toni Collette, Ewan McGregor, and Jeremy Northam); *Emma* (2020, Anya Taylor Joy and Johnny Flynn); *Clueless* (1995, Alicia Silverstone); *Emma* (2009, Romola Garai and Jonny Lee Miller); [Emma Approved](#) (vlog YouTube series); *Emma* (TV movie 1996, Kate Beckinsale and Mark Strong)
- several other older BBC or other made-for-tv versions exist out there, and many "inspired by Austen" films, too.