

ENG 391
Prof. Wonham
M, W, F, 11:00-11:50
146 HED

Office Hours:
M, W, F 3:00-4:00
PLC 274
Wonham@uoregon.edu

ENG 391 **19th Century American Novel**

Course Description: Students in ENG 391 will read some of the most important (and longest) American novels of the nineteenth century. Our analyses will consider the formal, thematic, historical and theoretical dimensions of these texts. The course is also designed to improve skills for the study of literature. Students will be challenged to read critically, to converse persuasively, and to write analytically.

Papers, Quizzes, Exams, Grading: There will be three assigned papers in the course, a 3-4 page paper due on Friday, **October 30**, a 3-4 page paper due on Friday, **November 20**, and a 3-4 page paper due on Friday, **December 4**. Essays must be typed, double-spaced, thoroughly proofread, and printed. There will also be a final exam. Each paper and the final exam will be worth 20% of the course grade. Class participation, including performance on unannounced quizzes and in-class writing exercises, will make up the remaining 20%.

Plagiarism: Students who hand in written material that is not their own will receive an F for the course, and a report will be submitted to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards to determine if additional sanctions should be imposed.

Required Readings: Books are available at the University Bookstore. Editions other than the ones ordered for the course are acceptable. Students must bring the assigned reading with them to class.

Herman Melville, *Moby Dick, or The Whale* (1851)
Mark Twain, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (1889)
Sarah Orne Jewett, *The Country of the Pointed Firs* (1896)

Learning Outcomes:

Students in the course will improve their skills in the following areas:

- 1) they will read literary and cultural texts with discernment and comprehension and with an understanding of their conventions;
- 2) they will draw on relevant cultural and/or historical information to situate texts within their cultural, political, and historical contexts;
- 3) they will perform critical, formal analyses of literary, cinematic, and other cultural texts;

- 4) they will write focused, analytical essays in clear, grammatical prose;
- 5) they will employ logic, creativity, and interpretive skills to produce original, persuasive arguments;
- 6) they will employ primary and/or secondary sources, with proper acknowledgment and citation, as they contribute to a critical essay's thesis.

Schedule of Assigned Readings

Week 1

Mon., Sept. 28: Introduction
 Wed., Sept. 30: Melville, *Moby Dick*, ch. 1-11
 Fri., Oct. 2: Melville, *Moby Dick*, ch. 12-22

Week 2

Mon., Oct. 5: Melville, *Moby Dick*, ch. 23-34
 Wed., Oct. 7: Melville, *Moby Dick*, ch. 35-46
 Fri., Oct. 9: no class

Week 3

Mon., Oct. 12: Melville, *Moby Dick*, ch. 47-58
 Wed., Oct. 14: Melville, *Moby Dick*, ch. 59-70
 Fri., Oct. 16: Melville, *Moby Dick*, ch. 71-82

Week 4

Mon., Oct. 19: Melville, *Moby Dick*, ch. 83-94
 Wed., Oct. 21: Melville, *Moby Dick*, ch. 95-106
 Fri., Oct. 23: Melville, *Moby Dick*, ch. 107-118

Week 5

Mon., Oct. 26: Melville, *Moby Dick*, ch. 119-130
 Wed., Oct. 28: Melville, *Moby Dick*, ch. 131-epilogue
 Fri., Oct. 30: Essay Due in Class

Week 6

Mon., Nov. 2: Twain, *A Connecticut Yankee*, "A Word of Explanation" and ch. 1-4
 Wed., Nov. 4: Twain, *A Connecticut Yankee*, ch. 5-11
 Fri., Nov. 6: Twain, *A Connecticut Yankee*, ch. 12-16

Week 7

Mon., Nov. 9: Twain, *A Connecticut Yankee*, ch. 17-22
 Wed., Nov. 11: Twain, *A Connecticut Yankee*, ch. 23-25
 Fri., Nov. 13: Twain, *A Connecticut Yankee*, ch. 26-32

Week 8

Mon., Nov. 16: Twain, *A Connecticut Yankee*, ch. 33-38

Wed., Nov. 18: Twain, *A Connecticut Yankee*, ch. 39—"Final Post-Script by M.T."

Fri., Nov. 20: Essay Due in Class

Week 9

Mon., Nov. 23: Jewett, *The Country of the Pointed Firs*, ch. 1-5

Wed., Nov. 25: Jewett, *The Country of the Pointed Firs*, ch. 6-10

Fri., Nov. 27: No Class—Thanksgiving Break

Week 10

Mon., Nov. 30: Jewett, *The Country of the Pointed Firs*, 11-16

Wed., Dec. 2: Jewett, *The Country of the Pointed Firs*, 17-21

Fri., Dec. 4: Essay Due in Class

Final Exam: Monday, Dec. 7, 10:15 am, in 146 HED