

ENG 410
crn 26998
Prof. Wonham
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FEN 117
Office Hours:
T, R, 3:00-4:00
PLC 274

Melville's *Moby Dick*

Course Description: This advanced undergraduate seminar will provide students with an intensive introduction to the major fiction of Herman Melville. The course will focus primarily on Melville's masterpiece, *Moby Dick*, but we will also cover works from the early and late phases of his career. We will situate Melville carefully within the historical context of 19th century America, yet the emphasis of the course will be on literary analysis of his major works.

The following texts by Melville have been ordered at the Duck Store:

Typee: A Peep at Polynesian Life (1846)
Moby Dick (1851)
Billy Budd and Other Stories (1986)

Papers, Exams: Students will write two versions of a single critical essay in this course. The first version (6-7 pp.) will be due during Week 8, on Thursday, February 25. A revised and expanded version of the essay (8-10 pp.) will be due two weeks later, on Thursday, March 10. There will be a take-home final exam due at 12:30 pm, Thursday, March 17. The exam will be submitted electronically.

Grading: Both versions of the essay will be graded, and each will be worth 25% of the final grade. The final exam will also be worth 25%. The remaining 25% of the course grade will reflect performance on reading quizzes (of which there will be several) and oral class participation.

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.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and to have completed the assigned reading before arriving in class. Two absences will be permitted. Each additional absence will result in a reduction of the final course grade.

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

Tues., Jan. 5: Introduction

Thurs., Jan 7: *Typee: A Peep at Polynesian Life*, Preface-Ch. 10 (pp. 1-75)

Week 2

Tues., Jan. 12: *Typee*, Ch. 20-26 (pp. 149-99) and Ch. 32-34 (pp. 231-53)

Thurs., Jan. 14: *Moby Dick*, ch. 1-13

Week 3

Tues., Jan. 19: *Moby Dick*, ch. 14-27

Thurs., Jan. 21: *Moby Dick*, ch. 28-41

Week 4

Tues., Jan. 26: Melville and Hawthorne (readings available on Canvas)

Thurs., Jan. 28: *Moby Dick*, ch. 42-56

Week 5

Tues., Feb. 2: *Moby Dick*, ch. 57-70

Thurs., Feb. 4: *Moby Dick*, ch. 71-86

Week 6

Tues., Feb. 9: *Moby Dick*, ch. 87-101

Thurs., Feb. 11: *Moby Dick*, ch. 102-117

Week 7

Tues., Feb. 16: *Moby Dick*, ch. 118-130

Thurs., Feb. 18: *Moby Dick*, ch. 131-epilogue

Week 8

Tues., Feb. 23: *Bartleby the Scrivener*

Thurs., Feb. 25: *Bartleby the Scrivener*

First version of essay due in class (6-7 pp.)

Week 9

Tues., March 1: *Benito Cereno* (pp. 161-210)

Thurs., March 3: *Benito Cereno* (pp. 211-258)

Week 10

Tues., March 8: *Billy Budd, Sailor*, ch. 1-17 (pp. 287-340)

Thurs., March 10: *Billy Budd, Sailor*, ch. 18-30 (pp. 340-85)

Revised and expanded version of essay due in class (8-10 pp.)

Final Exam: Take-home exam to be submitted electronically by 12:30 pm, Thursday, March 17 to wonham@uoregon.edu.