

Objectives

An introduction to literary analysis and research, using Melville's *Moby-Dick* (1851). We examine its religious, philosophical, and aesthetic riddles while exploring critical essays and learning to use online tools for research and writing.

Texts

(at U-Store or use **ISBN** to order from [ABE](#) or [Amazon](#))

Melville, Herman. *Moby-Dick: An Authoritative Text*. Eds. Harrison Hayford and Hershel Parker, 2nd ed. New York: W. W. Norton, 2002. Contains text, explanatory footnotes, maps, prints, drawings, and critical essays. **ISBN 0393972836**

Murfin, Ross C., and Supryia M. Ray. *The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms*. Boston: Bedford Books, 2003. Contains short articles explaining critical and theoretical terms, key ideas, and trends in literary scholarship. **ISBN 0312259107**

Seminars

1:30-2:20 pm: class discussion of chapters in *Moby-Dick*. Read closely and bring notes.

2:30-3:20 pm: background talk (WH); evaluations of critical essays (2 students).

3:30-4:20 pm: workshop on using online tools for research and writing.

4:00 pm Friday: scribe distributes to the class a 2-4 page summary of the discussion.

01. Open

Discuss: Etymology, Extracts, (pp 7-17)

Talk: Reading

Workshop: Google, Wikipedia

02. Loomings

Discuss: Ch. 1-8 (pp 18-46)

Talk: History

Workshop: Google (also LII, VOS)

03. Chowder

Discuss: Ch. 9-18 (pp 47-85)

Talk: Religion

Workshop: Firestone: catalog, resources, collections; RedLightGreen

04. Going Aboard

Discuss: Ch. 19-32 (pp 86-124)

Talk: Language

Workshop: Firestone: J-STOR, Lexis-Nexis, ProQuest

05. The Whiteness of the Whale

Discuss: Ch. 33-44 (pp 125-169)

Talk: Form

Workshop: Online texts, concordances, reviews

06. The Spirit-Spout

Discuss: Ch. 45-54 (pp 170-213)

Talk: Psychology

Workshop: Online literature, criticism, theory

07. Cutting In

Discuss: Ch. 55-72 (pp 214-256)

Talk: Class

Workshop: Notes, URLs, RefWorks

08. The Honor and Glory of Whaling

Discuss: Ch. 73-86 (pp 257-295)

Talk: Gender

Workshop: Outlines: Word

09. The Doubloon

Discuss: Ch. 87-100 (pp 296-339)

Talk: Race

Workshop: References: RefWorks

10. The Quadrant

Discuss: Ch. 101-118 (pp 340-378)

Talk: Structure

Workshop: Drafts: Word

11. The Chase

Discuss: Ch. 119-135 (pp 379-427)

Talk: Culture

Workshop: Revisions: Word

12. Close

Discuss: Epilogue (p 427)

Enjoy: Prospect; Rare Books & Special Collections

Fall Junior Paper

Write an essay (15-20 pp) on an aspect of *Moby-Dick* or on one of the books listed below. In either case, relate your topic or book to what you learned about *Moby-Dick* during the semester. You should make ample use of the ideas and notes we develop in seminars, showing familiarity with the readings, critical terms, Library and online Workshop that we cover. The listed books are available at Firestone, or you may order them from online vendors.

Optional Readings

Schultz, Elizabeth A. *Unpainted to the Last: Moby-Dick and Twentieth-Century American Art*. (1995). A critical survey of a wide range of modern visual art (painting, sculpture, photography) that interprets *Moby-Dick*.

Naslund, Sena Jeter. *Ahab's Wife; or, The Star-Gazer* (1999). A novel that gives a feminist spin to Melville's plot, by imagining the woman Ahab left behind.

Busch, Frederick. *The Night Inspector: A Novel*. (1999). A novel that depicts Melville's later years, when he fell into obscurity and worked as a customs inspector.

Olsen, Charles. *Call Me Ishmael* (1947, reissued 2000). An incisive lyrical reading of the novel by the distinguished poet and founder of Black Rock College.

Philbrick, Nathaniel. *In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex* (2000). An historical narrative that examines the genesis of *Moby Dick* in the story of the *Essex*, destroyed by a white whale in 1820.

Severin, Tim. *In Search of Moby Dick: The Quest for the White Whale* (2000). A travel narrative that seeks to confirm the existence of the white whale that destroyed the *Essex*.

Deadlines (submit all by e-mail attachment)

10 Nov 2006 at 4 pm for the "pink sheet," describing your topic or book, the interpretive approach, and any sources you will consult.

09 Dec 2006 at 4 pm for a 1-3 page outline of your final draft. It will show in greater detail the evidence and argument of your paper.

09 Jan 2007 at 4 pm for the final draft.

Office Hours & Contact Information

Mon & Wed: 4:30-5:30 pm (by appointment)
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