

BASIC PROGRAM of LIBERAL EDUCATION for ADULTS

Autumn Quarter

2024

The Art and Ends of Reading: *Moby-Dick*

INSTRUCTOR	DATES AND TIMES	LOCATION
Amy and Charles Thomas Elder	COURSE LENGTH: 10 Weeks DATES: Oct. 6 – Dec. 14	Remote Course
EMAIL: amythomas@uchicago.edu ; celder@uchicago.edu Instructor can be contacted through Canvas message	DAY OF THE WEEK: Saturday TIMES: 9:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.	COURSE CODE and SECTION: BASC 70259 24A1 PREREQUISITES: At least 2 years of the Basic Program

Remote courses require you to login to Canvas to access the Zoom Classroom. **You will receive an invitation to join Canvas about a week before your course begins.** Please visit <https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts> to find Canvas login instructions, Zoom instructions, and student training sessions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Moby-Dick is our American epic, and one of the most densely written books in our language. It “contains the cosmos,” as Harold Bloom writes; and he adds: “I would not change one sentence.”

We will do a close reading of the text in autumn, followed in the winter by a consideration of major critical commentaries, some of which, at least, have their own magnitude and greatness (e.g., Charles Olsen, Alfred Kazin, Edward Edinger, and others.

We will still not have done justice to the work, but we may make a beginning toward it. For anyone who either loves *Moby-Dick* or is willing to try to.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Melville, Herman, *Moby-Dick* [Penguin] 978-0142437247

Students can purchase books at the Gleacher Center Bookstore online at <https://chicagobooth.bncollege.com/shop/chicagobooth/page/find-textbooks> using the Textbook order form, or by using the ISBN number to order the correct edition elsewhere.

Students will receive an invitation to join the Graham School Student Community Canvas Site, a place to read announcements, have discussions, ask questions, and find resources.

WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

DISABILITY INFORMATION

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.

DAY	READING ASSIGNMENT
WEEK 1 Oct. 6	Melville, <i>Moby Dick</i> , Etymology, Extracts, Chapters 1-3, pp. xxxvii-li; 3-27
WEEK 2 Oct. 13	Melville, <i>Moby Dick</i> , Chapters 4-19, pp. 28-103
WEEK 3 Oct. 20	Melville, <i>Moby Dick</i> , Chapters 20-35, pp. 104-173
WEEK 4 Oct. 27	Melville, <i>Moby Dick</i> , Chapters 36-49, pp. 174-249
WEEK 5 Nov. 2	Melville, <i>Moby Dick</i> , Chapters 50-64, pp. 250-324
WEEK 6 Nov. 9	Melville, <i>Moby Dick</i> , Chapters 65-83, pp. 325-401
WEEK 7 Nov. 16	Melville, <i>Moby Dick</i> , Chapters 84-99, pp. 402-475
WEEK 8 Nov. 23	Melville, <i>Moby Dick</i> , Chapters 100-118, pp. 476-545
WEEK 9 Dec. 7	Melville, <i>Moby Dick</i> , Chapters 119-135, Epilogue, pp. 546-625
WEEK 10 Dec. 14	Melville, <i>Moby Dick</i> , Review of the whole