

## ENG 490 STUDIES IN MAJOR AUTHORS

### Syllabus

**Instructor:** David Mazel  
**E-mail:** dbmazel@adams.edu  
**Phone:** 719.587.7386  
**Fax:** 719.587.7176  
**Address:** Adams State College  
Department of English  
208 Edgemont Blvd.  
Alamosa, CO 81102

### **COURSE CREDIT:**

Three Semester Hours

### **PREREQUISITES:**

ENG 210 with a minimum grade of C or instructor's permission

### **COURSE MATERIALS:**

#### **Required Materials:**

ENG 490 Course Packet from the ASC Bookstore

#### **Required Books:**

Please obtain the exact edition listed of the following books—borrow or buy as you choose.

Marx, Karl. (1988). *The communist manifesto*, NY: Norton  
0-393-95616-4

Melville, Herman. (2002). *Moby-dick*, NY: Norton  
0-393-97283-6

McCall, Dan (ed.). (2002). *Melville's short novels*, NY: Norton  
0-393-97641-6

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is a study of major authors in fiction, dramatic literature, and poetry. Author(s) will be selected by instructor. This section of the course focuses on important works by Herman Melville.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES/STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon completing this course, students will:

- understand key themes of the works of Herman Melville;
- understand those themes in relation to their cultural and historical contexts;
- understand Melville's contemporary significance;
- be better able to analyze texts from a variety of contemporary perspectives;
- be better able to write critically about texts; and
- be better prepared for introductory coursework at the graduate level.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Students must read all assigned work and write five short critical essays (4-6 pages each, except for the *Moby-Dick* essay, which should be 8-10 pages long). In addition, students must take two proctored essay exams (one on *Moby-Dick* and one on the novellas).

## **GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:**

In alignment with ASC academic policies, no D may apply to a major or minor field.

### **Grade Distribution:**

Critical Essay 1 ( <i>Bartleby</i> )	100 points
Critical Essay 2 ( <i>Benito Cereno</i> )	100 points
Critical Essay 3 ( <i>Billy Budd</i> )	100 points
Critical Essay 4 (Melville's poetry)	100 points
Proctored Exam 1 (novellas and poetry)	200 points
Critical Essay 5 ( <i>Moby-Dick</i> )	200 points
Proctored Exam 2 ( <i>Moby-Dick</i> )	<u>200 points</u>
Total Points	1000

I will grade your exams and critical essays on the basis of 1.) the strength of the arguments they make and 2.) the degree to which they demonstrate an undergraduate-level mastery of the texts studied.

### **Scale:**

900-1000	A
800-899	B
700-799	C
600-699	D
599 and below	F