



One day, one novel: *Moby-Dick*

Start date 8 April 2017 **Time** 10:00 – 16:45

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor Dr Andy Wimbush **Course code** 1617NDX037

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings

For further information on this course, please contact Public Programme Coordinator, Clare Kerr
clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 746237

To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Andy Wimbush holds a PhD in English from the University of Cambridge. He specialises in the study of twentieth-century and contemporary literature, particularly experimental fiction, the relationship between literature and religion, and the work of Samuel Beckett and B.S. Johnson. His research has been published in *The Journal of Beckett Studies*, *Literature and Theology*, and various academic books. Andy has taught at the University of Cambridge since 2013 and is an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	Session 1: An introduction to Melville
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Session 2: What kind of book is <i>Moby-Dick</i>?
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Session 3: The sacred and the profane in <i>Moby Dick</i>
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	Session 4: Group discussion
16:45	Day-school ends

Course syllabus

Aims:

- To show students how to analyse a novel's formal and structural qualities, as well as its theme, plot, and characters.
- To introduce students to the historical and religious concerns at the heart of Melville's *Moby-Dick*.

Content:

This one-day course will introduce students to Melville's epic novel of the whaling trade, *Moby-Dick*. We will explore the historical context that informed the book's genesis and the religious motifs and allusions that appear throughout the novel. We will also consider to what extent Melville's book can even be called a novel, given its similarities in places to encyclopaedic books such as Robert Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy*.

Presentation of the course:

The course will be offered in a seminar format with a mixture of mini-lectures using slides and group discussion.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- To discuss the core themes, formal devices, and historical context of *Moby-Dick* in an informed and reflective manner.
- To analyse literary texts in close detail, with reference to imagery, vocabulary, and tone.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Author	Title	Publisher and date
(ed.) Robert S Levine	<i>The New Cambridge Companion to Herman Melville</i>	Cambridge University Press, 2014
(ed.) Harold Bloom	<i>Herman Melville's Moby-Dick (Critical Interpretations)</i>	Chelsea House, 1986

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 22 November 2016