

Due **Friday, December 12, in class**. If you are not in class that day, you should still e-mail me the paper on that day by 10 a.m. Turn in a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to receive the paper back in a prompt manner; otherwise you will need to wait until the spring.

The paper should be **5 pages, double-spaced**. This paper is worth 18% of the final grade. Plagiarism of part or whole of another's work will result in an "F" for this assignment.

Include a bibliography ONLY if you are using a different translation/edition or if you are citing outside sources (which is by no means required; citing outside sources does not by itself elevate your grade, and in some cases can even hinder the development of your argument).

Be sure to cite specific passages. Good citation does not necessarily require quotation; often paraphrase is more effective. Cite passages parenthetically: e.g., the first time Bartleby says "I would prefer not to," he has been asked to compare a copy of a manuscript with the original (10).

As a reminder, essays that are five or more full pages, and that analyze more than one text, are eligible for the Writing Proficiency Portfolio.

Please indicate clearly which topic you are addressing. Also come up with a title for your essay. (Titles ideally have a "sexy" and a "substantive" part: i.e., they draw the reader's attention, but also give a strong indication of your argument.)

TOPICS

You do not need to answer all questions in a given topic. They are meant to stimulate the thinking process that leads to a strong thesis argument.

1. One way in which the political vision of Martin Delany's Blake is unique is its scope: his political imagination addresses a group who have undergone an international diaspora, but could possibly (he hopes) unite to emancipate themselves and maybe even form a new nation. Trace the way in which the novel presents its international vision. How does Delany convey the vision to the reader? What are some strengths and/or contradictions of this vision? Can this vision help us to understand why Delany wrote this book?
2. How does Delany's Blake handle the topic of religion? How does Delany see the role of religion in political movements? How does the character of Blake seek real knowledge, and how is this knowledge like or unlike religious faith?
3. Delany's Blake deals with the topics of marriage and family. Trace how these topics are illustrated in the book. Why do you think these topics had political urgency for Delany?
4. Is Bartleby a representative figure for the Occupy Wall Street movement? How does Herman Melville's representation of Bartleby relate to Occupy Wall Street writers' representation of themselves? If there is a political vision in Melville's story, how might it have spoken to Melville's time? and/or to our time?
5. Devise your own topic. Any self-devised topics must be submitted to me for approval by me by the class meeting time on Wednesday, December 10 (no exception). I would recommend getting the topic to me earlier if possible.