

## Program Nine – Outline Nine

- I. Nineteenth-century connections
  - A. Call for national literature
  - B. Romanticism
  - C. Ambiguity (“dreams”)
  - D. Historical subjects (current)
    - 1. In general
    - 2. For “Benito Cereno”
- II. Melville’s career
- III. “Benito Cereno”
  - A. Structure
    - 1. Sections
      - a. Four sections
      - b. Out of order
    - 2. Effect
      - a. Mystery
      - b. Solution (?)
      - c. Closing solution (?)
  - B. Narrative point of view (selective, limited omniscient)
    - 1. American
      - a. Delano’s thoughts distanced
      - b. Narrative voice comments
      - c. Traits of American critiqued
    - 2. Humorous
      - a. Delano fooled
      - b. Delano biased
    - 3. Deceptive
      - a. Delano’s understanding

- b. Incomplete information
    - c. Deposition's truth
    - d. Black missing
  - C. Symbolic patterns
    - 1. Obvious elements
    - 2. Imagery patterns
      - a. Allusions
      - b. Nature
  - D. Ambiguity
    - 1. Incomplete information
    - 2. Suggestive language
    - 3. Delano's conflicting ideas
    - 4. Narrative voice's versions
    - 5. Deposition's truth
    - 6. Closing statements ("best man err")
  - E. Themes
    - 1. Slavery
    - 2. American identity
    - 3. Perception
- IV. Critique of American "stories"
  - A. Then
  - B. Now