**Take Me to the River*: Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *Beloved***

**Fall 2022**

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Published almost exactly a century apart, Mark Twain’s *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885) and Toni Morrison’s *Beloved* (1987) represent two of the most celebrated—and most controversial—novels ever written by Americans. These books have much in common and we will read them as a pair: they both take place in pre-Civil War America, giving voice and heart to the tangled knot of American slavery. Both have been celebrated as masterpieces and have been banned regularly. And both are set in our part of the world: one on the Mississippi River and one on the Ohio River. Let’s explore these two remarkable American river novels to see where they might lead us.

**Course Outline by Week**

Sept. 15: Introduction/background to Mark Twain and Toni Morrison

Sept. 22:  *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn,* chapters I*-*XVI

Sept. 29:  *Huckleberry Finn,* chapters XVII-XXVIII

Oct. 6: *Huckleberry Finn,* chapters XXIX-XLIII

Oct. 13: *Beloved*, I

Oct. 20: *Beloved,* II

Oct. 27:  *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *Beloved,* together

Nov. 3: *Huckleberry Finn* and *Beloved:* legacies and adaptations

To get started, I recommend you read Twain’s essay “Advice to Youth” (1882):

(You might need to copy and paste.)

[**https://www.wheelersburg.net/Downloads/Twain%20Youth.pdf**](https://www.wheelersburg.net/Downloads/Twain%20Youth.pdf)

You might want to read Toni Morrison’s 1996 introduction to *Huckleberry Finn*:

[**https://neebefinalexam.weebly.com/uploads/2/8/4/9/28496677/morrison\_huckfinn.pdf**](https://neebefinalexam.weebly.com/uploads/2/8/4/9/28496677/morrison_huckfinn.pdf)

You can use any editions. I will be using the following:

**Mark Twain*, Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. NY: Norton Critical Ed. 4th ed.**

**Thomas Cooley, ed., 2022.**

**ISBN: 978-0-393-28416-4**

**Toni Morrison, *Beloved.* NY: Vintage International Edition, 2004.**

**ISBN: 978-1-4000-3341-6**

Both novels are online:

***Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*:** [**https://www.gutenberg.org/files/76/76-h/76-h.htm**](https://www.gutenberg.org/files/76/76-h/76-h.htm)

**Beloved:** [**https://onlinereadfreenovel.com/toni-morrison/34286-beloved.html**](https://onlinereadfreenovel.com/toni-morrison/34286-beloved.html)