

SYLLABUS: A Seminar on John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*

Required Text: John Steinbeck. *The Grapes of Wrath*. Viking Critical Library. Ed. Peter Lisca. Updated with Kevin Hearle. New York: Penguin Books, 1997. ISBN 978-0-14-024775-6.*

Readings for Discussion are required. Deep Dive readings are optional and may contain spoilers.

Wednesday, Feb 4: No assigned reading. Lecture. "An Introduction to John Steinbeck and *The Grapes of Wrath*." **Short Film.** Pare Lorentz, "*The Plow That Broke the Plains*" (1937).

Wednesday, Feb. 11: Discussion. Chapters 1-11. pp. 5-118. **Deep Dive.** Shockley, pp. 490-501.

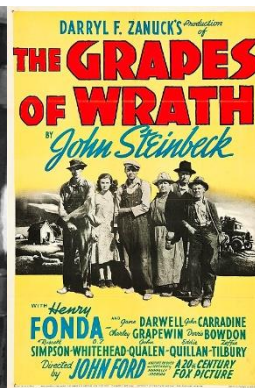
Wednesday, Feb. 18: Discussion. Chapters 12-18. pp. 119-230. **Deep Dive.** Griffin and Freedman, pp. 589-602; Reed pp. 603-615.

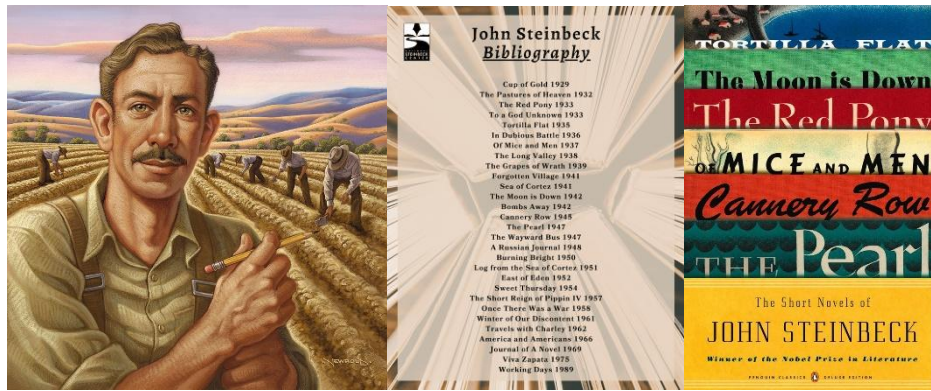
Wednesday, Feb. 25: Discussion. Chapters 19-24. pp. 231-345. **Deep Dive.** McWilliams, pp. 469-489.

Wednesday, Mar. 4: Discussion. Chapters 25-30. pp. 346-543. **Deep Dive.** Owens, pp. 643-653; Gladstein, pp. 682-692.

Wednesday, Mar. 11: Final Class will be held at the Eveningstar Cinema, 149 Maine Street, Brunswick, from 11 am-2 pm. Private Screening of Director John Ford's film *The Grapes of Wrath*, starring Academy Award winners Henry Fonda as Tom Joad and Jane Darwell as Ma. Followed by discussion.

Deep Dive. Benson pp. 505-525; DeMott pp. 526-539.





ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Biography and Letters

Jackson Benson, *The True Adventures of John Steinbeck, Writer*, 1984.

Jay Parini, *John Steinbeck: A Biography*, 1995.

John Steinbeck, *Steinbeck: A Life in Letters*, ed. Elaine Steinbeck and Robert Wallsten, 1975.

Steinbeck's Journalism and Journal Supplemental to *Grapes*:

John Steinbeck, *The Harvest Gypsies: On the Road to The Grapes of Wrath*. Introd. Charles Wollenberg, Hey Day Books, Berkeley, 1936.

John Steinbeck, *Working Days: The Journals of the Grapes of Wrath, 1938-1941*, ed. Robert DeMott, 1989.

Reader's Companion

Susan Shillinglaw, *On Reading The Grapes of Wrath*, 2014.

On-line Resources

The Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies at San Jose State University:

<https://www.sjsu.edu/steinbeck/>

The National Steinbeck Museum: <https://steinbeck.org/>