How bloody is the body politic? Is there such a thing as a politics of blood? What does it mean to give no ‘blood for oil!’? Was William Harvey really a physician? And what does that say about Hobbes and our political imagination since? Finally, what do these questions have to do with Melville’s Moby-Dick? “Leviathan and the Blood Pump” proposes that blood is a crucial meme of Western political thought, a way to measure the measureless depth of an sanguinary ocean definitively described in Melville’s—not Hobbes—Leviathan.