

Jacquelyn Ardam, Visiting Assistant Professor  
jwardam@colby.edu

Class: Mon & Wed, 1:00-2:15, Lovejoy 202  
OH: Mon 10:30-12:30, Thurs 1:00-4:00, Miller 218

**English 200: Foundations of Literary Studies**  
**MONSTERS**



How and why do we read? How do we decide what counts as literature? What counts as knowledge for readers of imaginative texts? We begin to answer these questions in this broad ranging course. Required for the English major, the introduction to college-level literary studies incorporates poetry, drama, and fiction, explores canon formation with a historical range of literary works, and emphasizes close reading, interpretive vocabulary, and critical writing skills. The course also introduces students to critical perspectives and scholarly research. The theme of this section is monsters, and we will use the ideas of monstrosity, the grotesque, and otherness to explore topics including gender, sexuality, race, class, science, and culture.

**Texts:**

- William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, Folger Edition (978-0743482837)
  - Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, Norton Critical Edition, Second Ed (978-0393927931)
  - Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (978-1400033416)
  - Anne Carson, *Autobiography of Red* (978-0375701290)
- \*additional texts available as PDF on Moodle\*

**Learning Goals:**

- Develop close reading skills across a number of literary genres
- Enact those close reading skills to distinguish between identification and analysis
- Develop arguments based on evidence
- Make connections between text and larger social issues
- Gain facility with research methods in the humanities
- Understand and articulate the purpose and value of literary studies

**Assignments and Grading:**

- 3 Short Assignments: 5% each
- *The Tempest* Research Project: 15%
- Paper 1 (5-6 pages): 20%
- Paper 2 (7-8 pages): 30%
- Participation: 20%

You will receive separate handouts that include more extensive guidelines for all of your assignments.

**Short Assignments:** You will have three short assignments that focus on the development of close readings and argumentation skills throughout the semester. Your prompt for each short assignment will be posted on Moodle at least one week in advance of the due date

**Late Policy:** Papers are due via the course website by the time and date marked on the syllabus. You may submit your paper as a Word document (.doc or .docx) or as a PDF. If you upload a corrupted file or a file that I cannot open, your paper will count as late until I receive a workable file. Late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a grade (A to A-) for each late day. I may grant extensions in extenuating circumstances; when in doubt, come and talk to me.

**Participation:** This is a very small class and its success depends on active dialogue between students. Please come to class fully prepared to discuss the material. If you have trouble speaking in class, you might want to consider bringing prepared questions and/or comments with you. You cannot participate in class if you are not actually in class. More than one unexcused absence will have a negative effect on your participation grade.

**Office Hours:** I will hold walk-in office hours on Mondays from 10:30-12:30 and Thursdays from 1:00-4:00pm in Miller 218. I am also available at other times by appointment. I will hold extra office hours during the week before papers are due.

**Format of Papers:** All papers should include your name, my name, the class title and number, and date. They should be formatted in size 12 font, with 1 inch margins. They must include a Works Cited page.

**Email Policy:** Please feel free to contact me via email at [jwardam@colby.edu](mailto:jwardam@colby.edu) with questions or concerns throughout the semester. I will respond to emails within 24 hours during the week; my email responses may take longer over the weekend. I will not respond to any questions about papers 24 hours before each of the papers is due, nor will I read entire drafts of your paper. If you have long or complicated questions, I suggest that you meet with me during office hours. Meeting in person is usually much more productive than exchanging emails.

**Electronics Policy:** Please silence your electronic devices during class. Laptops, tablets, kindles, etc. will be allowed in class, but if I see you using them for purposes unrelated to class discussions, I will ask you to put them away.

**Academic Honesty:** Honesty, integrity, and personal responsibility are cornerstones of a Colby education and provide the foundation for scholarly inquiry, intellectual discourse, and an open and welcoming campus community. These values are articulated in the Colby Affirmation and are central to this course. Students are expected to demonstrate academic honesty in all aspects of this course. Any violations of

academic honesty will be referred to the Coordinator of Academic Integrity; sanctions may include suspension or expulsion.

According to Colby (<http://web.colby.edu/farnham-writerscenter/academic-honesty/>), academic dishonesty includes more than just the purposeful submission of another's material as one's own without citation. Academic dishonesty also includes:

- **double-submitting**, or using the same work to meet assignments in two or more courses;
- **insufficient paraphrasing**, or representing someone else's language too closely as your own;
- **pirating ideas**, or using the thoughts, concepts, and analysis of someone else—even those of a friend or roommate in casual conversation—as your own;
- **incomplete citation**, or failing to include all necessary elements of documentation in your citations (for example, omitting either in-text citations or a Works Cited pages when both are required);
- **under-documentation**, or combining several sources into a single one.

For more, see page 9 of your student handbook on “Academic Honesty” (<http://www.colby.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Colby-College-Student-Handbook-2-16.pdf>). If you have any questions about plagiarism, don't hesitate to contact me! I am happy to talk through any concerns you may have about academic honesty.

**Athletic Participation:** While Colby College is supportive of athletic participation by its students, academics takes priority over athletics. Both NCAA and Colby rules prohibit missing class for practices. In the case of overlapping commitments between class and athletic competitions, you must meet with me as soon as possible to discuss these overlaps. You may request permission to miss class and make up the missed work, but I have the final authority either to grant or to withhold permission.

**Religious Holidays:** Colby College is supportive of the religious practices of its students, faculty, and staff. The College is committed to ensuring that all students are able to observe their religious beliefs without academic penalty. If you observe a religious holiday that will impact your work in this course, please see me at the beginning of the term. We will then work to find a reasonable accommodation that will allow you to complete the academic work.

**Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Statement:** Colby College prohibits and will not tolerate sexual misconduct or gender-based discrimination of any kind. Colby is legally obligated to investigate sexual misconduct (including, but not limited to sexual assault and sexual harassment).

If you wish to speak confidentially about an incident of sexual misconduct, please contact Colby Counseling Services ([207-859-4490](tel:207-859-4490)) or the Director of the Gender and Sexual Diversity Program, Emily Schusterbauer ([207-859-4093](tel:207-859-4093)).

Students should be aware that faculty members are considered responsible employees; as such, if you disclose an incident of sexual misconduct to a faculty member, they have an obligation to report it to Colby's Title IX Coordinator. “Disclosure” may include communication in-person, via email/phone/text, or through class assignments. To learn more about sexual misconduct or report an incident, visit <http://www.colby.edu/sexualviolence/>

## Reading Schedule

**Note: readings marked with \* are available on Moodle**

### Week 1

Wed Sep 5: Introductions

### Week 2:

Mon Sep 10: Jeffrey Jerome Cohen, "Monster Culture (Seven Theses)"\*

Weds Sep 12 The Blazon

Campion, "There is a Garden in Her Face"\*

Spenser, Sonnet 15 ("Ye weary merchants...")\*

Spenser, Sonnet 64 ("Coming to kiss her lips...")\*

Shakespeare, Sonnet 130 ("My mistress' eyes...")\*

### Week 3

Mon Sep 17 Shakespeare, "The Tempest" (Act I)

Weds Sep 19 Shakespeare, "The Tempest" (Acts II & III)

**Fri Sept 21 \*\*Short Assignment 1 due 5pm\*\***

### Week 4

Mon Sep 24 Shakespeare, "The Tempest" (Act IV)

Weds Sep 26 Shakespeare, "The Tempest" (Act V)

### Week 5

Mon Oct 1 Jonathan Swift, "The Lady's Dressing Room"\*

Weds Oct 3 Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Author's Introduction, Preface, Chapters 1-5)

### Week 6

Mon Oct 8 Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Chapters 6-16)

Weds Oct 10 Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Chapters 17-24); critical selections from Norton Critical Edition

**Fri Oct 12 \*\*The Tempest Research Project due 5pm\*\***

### Week 7

Mon Oct 15 (no class, fall recess)

Weds Oct 17 Christina Rossetti, "Goblin Market"\*

**Week 8**

Mon Oct 22 Robert Browning, "Porphyria's Lover"\*

Weds Oct 24 William Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily"\*

**Fri Oct 26 \*\*Short Assignment 2 due 5pm\*\***

**Week 9**

Mon Oct 29 Octavia Butler, "Bloodchild"\*

Weds Oct 31 Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (1-49)

**Week 10**

Mon Nov 5 Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (50-105)

Weds Nov 7 Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (106-147)

**Fri Nov 9 \*\*Paper 1 due 5pm\*\***

**Week 11**

Mon Nov 12 Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (148-165)

Weds Nov 14 Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (166-217)

**Week 12**

Mon Nov 19 Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (218-275)

**Tues Nov 20 \*\*Short Assignment 3 due 5pm\*\***

Weds Nov 21 (no class, Thanksgiving recess)

**Week 13**

Mon Nov 26 Anne Carson, *Autobiography of Red* (1-69)

Weds Nov 28 Anne Carson, *Autobiography of Red* (70-149)

**Week 14**

Mon Dec 3 Carmen Maria Machado, "The Husband Stitch"\*

Weds Dec 5 Wrap up

**Fri Dec 14 \*\*Paper 2 due 5pm\*\***