

English 200: Introduction to Literature
Special Topic: Literatures of Monsters and Monstrosity

Spring 2015
Sections 703 and 706
Online via Blackboard

Instructor: Dr. Jerod Ra'Del Hollyfield

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Course Description:

This course serves as an introduction to reading prose, poetry, and drama at the collegiate level. Throughout the semester, we will discuss an array of approaches to read literature while paying attention to historical, geographical, cultural, and ethnic contexts. We will also discuss literary and critical terms that will help you connect the analytical skills from class to the culture-at-large regardless of your major.

As a way to link various literary genres and time periods, this course will focus on representations of monsters in literature and how they embody issues such as gender, race, class, and identity. Through this theme of monstrosity, we will trace the development of a host of monsters from vampires to goblins and investigate why such creatures are integral to our literary imaginations.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of English 200, students should be able to:

- Use basic literary terminology to interpret literary texts.
- Write thesis-driven analytical papers about literature.
- Use MLA guidelines to document use of primary source material.

Required Texts and Materials: (Please buy physical copies in the editions listed)

- Course Packet (available through Blackboard).
- *Monsters*. Edited by Brandy Ball Blake and L. Andrew Cooper (Fountainhead Press).
- Shakespeare, William. *The Tempest* (Norton).
- Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein* (Norton).
- Stevenson Robert Louis. *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (Norton).
- Whedon, Joss. *Fray* (Dark Horse Books).
- Whitehead, Colson. *Zone One* (Anchor).

Course Policies:

- **Attendance:** Since this course is online, attendance is measured by the level of daily participation that students exhibit. Participation and professionalism will factor heavily into your final grade.

- **E-Mail Policy:** I am glad to communicate with students via E-mail. However, please keep in mind that E-mail response is not instantaneous. I will try to answer E-mails within 24 hours after they are sent. If you need a more immediate response, feel free to telephone me. In addition, please keep in mind that E-mail correspondence should be used for questions and concerns that cannot be answered by looking at the syllabus.
- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is using the intellectual property or product of someone else without giving proper credit. The undocumented use of others' words or ideas is a serious offense, subject to disciplinary action that may include course failure and/or expulsion. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism or are not sure how to deal with source material for an assignment, please do not hesitate to ask me for help.
- **Disabilities:** "In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact Student Disability Services in Downing University Center, A-200. The phone number is 270-745-5004. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from Student Disability Services."
- **Syllabus Changes:** I reserve the right to change and update the syllabus at any point during the semester. While I will not add additional work, I may change due dates, readings, and other aspects of the course.
- **Course Content:** We will discuss a range of sometimes controversial texts. However, remember that this is not a course in personal belief, but in understanding culture through literature. If you have concerns about any assigned material, do not hesitate to discuss the matter with me.
- **Late Assignments:** I do not accept late assignments except in the case of documented emergencies. If you do not turn in assignments on the due date, you will not receive credit. Please note that I allow a five-minute grace period for tardiness on due dates. If you are more than five minutes late uploading an assignment, I will not accept it.
- **Assignment Format:** All work should be double spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, **printed on one side**, and **stapled**. All assignments should follow MLA format. Your paper should have a title centered before the assignment begins. Assignments that do not follow these guidelines **will not receive credit**. These guidelines do not apply to discussion board posts.
- **Length:** The stated length of assignments is the **minimum length required to earn a grade of "C"**. Any paper that just meets the minimum length will earn no higher than a "C". Any papers that do not meet minimum length requirements will earn failing grades. Students who would like to write a paper that exceeds the required length will not be penalized.
- **Completion:** In order to pass this course, **all assignments must be completed**.

Grading and Expectations:

(Total Class Points: 100)

- **Discussion Board Posts (40 points):** Every Friday by noon, you are required to 1). Post a response to the assigned readings to our Blackboard discussion board for that day and 2). Go to the discussion board for the next week and read the guide I have posted for that week's reading. While most of your responses will be based on the questions I ask in my weekly guides, some will ask you to freewrite about your thoughts on a particular text. These posts should be in paragraph form and have no required length. However, they should include a thesis sentence, at least one quote from the texts you are discussing, and an explanation of how this quote supports your thesis.
- **Response Posts (10 points):** Each week, you are required to respond to two of your classmates' posts. Your responses should either agree and add a new observation to the original post or disagree and provide reasons. These posts should also have a thesis, use quotes, and explain how quotes support the thesis.
- **Prose Paper (15 points):** A 3-4 page, thesis-driven literary essay that makes an argument about a prose piece read in class.
- **Poetry Explication Paper (15 points):** A 3-4 page explication of a poem read in class.
- **Final Paper (20 points):** A 4-6 page thesis-driven essay that enters an academic conversation about Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and at least one other text.

Grading Scale:

A :	100-90
B:	89-80
C:	79-70
D:	69-60
F:	59-0

Course Schedule:**Note: (BC) = Blake and Cooper's *Monsters*; (CP) = Course Packet on Blackboard**

F	Jan 30	Introductions The Nuts and Bolts of a Great Paper (CP) "Introduction: Haunting Boundaries" (BC) Unit I: Prose Fiction Edgar Allan Poe "Ligeia" (CP) Nathaniel Hawthorne "Young Goodman Brown" (CP)
F	Feb 6	Angela Carter "The Company of Wolves" (BC) Flannery O'Connor "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" (CP)
F	Feb 13	Mary Shelley <i>Frankenstein</i> chapters 1-12
F	Feb 20	Mary Shelley <i>Frankenstein</i> (finish) Anne K. Mellor " <i>Frankenstein: A Feminist Critique of Science</i> " (BC)
F	Feb 27	E.T.A. Hoffmann "The Sandman" (CP) Sigmund Freud excerpts from <i>The Uncanny</i> (BC)
F	Mar 6	Robert Louis Stevenson <i>Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> Judith Halberstam "Parasites and Perverts: An Introduction to Gothic Monstrosity" (BC) Prose Paper due by 11:59 p.m.
F	Mar 13	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK
F	Mar 20	Colson Whitehead <i>Zone One</i> (complete)
F	Mar 27	Unit II: Poetry UNC Explication Guide (CP) William Blake "London" (CP) Sonnet Guide (CP) William Shakespeare "Sonnet 114" (CP) Petrarch "Rima 189" (CP)
F	Apr 3	Christina Rossetti "Goblin Market" (CP)
F	Apr 10	Anne Sexton "Her Kind" (CP) Anne Sexton "Rumpelstiltskin" (CP) Sylvia Plath "Lady Lazarus" (CP) Adrienne Rich "Planetarium" (CP)
F	Apr 17	Charles Bukowski "True Story" (CP) Allen Ginsberg "Hospital Window" (CP) Derek Walcott "The Schooner Flight" (CP)
F	Apr 24	Unit III: Drama William Shakespeare <i>The Tempest</i> (Act I-II) Poetry Paper Due by 11:59 p.m.
F	May 1	William Shakespeare <i>The Tempest</i> (Finish)
F	May 8	Unit IV: Graphic and Visual Narrative Joss Whedon <i>Fray</i> Graphic Novel Handout (CP) Natalie Wilson "Crazed Vampires Versus Savage Werewolves: Race and Ethnicity in the <i>Twilight</i> Series" (BC)
F	May 15	FINAL PAPER DUE 12:00 p.m. (noon)