

Comparative Literature 207:  
Global Literature from Antiquity—1600s

# TOPIC: MONSTERS & MARVELS IN THE PRE-MODERN WORLD[S]

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**Date & Location:** MW 12:30—1:45pm Bolton 294



Supernatural monsters and enchanting marvels are certainly as old as literature itself. Our understandings of humanity, power, community, the divine and even death and the afterlife have been shaped since antiquity by myth, literature, performance and art. This course offers students an overview of the development and interplay between the age-old clash between the monstrous and the marvelous in global literature in the ancient, medieval and early modern worlds. Our tentative texts include *The Epic of Gilgamesh*; *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles; origin myths from ancient Rome, Egypt, China & Guatemala; erotic literature from classical India; African and Middle Eastern folktales and ghost stories; Joan of Arc's letters; selected poems by Sappho, Rumi, Veronica Franco and Anne Bradstreet; Dante's *Inferno*; and William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. This course satisfies the GER [HU] & International Studies requirements.

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