Texts: (please get the three books indicated by the ISBN numbers listed here; I will also try to have copies of each on reserve at O'Neill Library):

Selections from Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* (text on Canvas)
*Ceremony*, Leslie Marmon Silko ISBN 978-0143104919
*Into the Wild*, Jon Krakauer ISBN 978-0385486804
Selected poems and short stories (on Canvas)

Once in Kansas, I stood in a field and watched
the stars on the horizon revolve around my ankles.
People are always moving, even those standing still
because the world keeps changing around them, changing them.

-- Kurt Brown, from “Road Trip” (poem)

Our theme for this six-week introductory literature course will be transformation and journey. We’ll read a variety of literary texts across genres and time periods that examine these subjects. You will learn to develop critical thinking skills and close reading strategies that should help you in future academic reading and conversations both in and out of class. This is a discussion course, not a lecture, so full and active participation from students is not only encouraged but expected! You know more than you may believe about the works we’ll study, and I would like to hear from each of you, often.

Students are expected to attend every class, having done the assigned reading before our meetings. There will be weekly Canvas posts (short responses) to the texts and class discussions, three to four content quizzes, two longer analytic papers, and a final exam. Your grade will be based on:
3 Posts and participation  25%
2 Papers 25%
3 Quizzes 25%
Final exam 25%

Course Schedule:

Part I: Transformation

Week One (June 25-27): “About suffering they were never wrong, / The old Masters: how well they understood / Its human position…”

Read: (ALL SELECTIONS ON CANVAS UNDER “MODULES” LINK)
from Ovid’s Metamorphoses, “Daphne Becomes the Laurel Bough” (p. 57); “Jupiter Tranforms Io to a Heifer” through “Io is Returned to Human Form” (61-69); “Narcissus Sees Himself and Falls in Love” through “Narcissus is Changed Into a Flower” (154-159); “Perseus Tells the Story of Medusa” (224); “Daedalus and Icarus” (386); also “Medusa” (poem) by Patricia Smith; “Musee des Beaux Arts” (poem) by W.H. Auden; “Fialta” (short story) by Rebecca Lee

POST DUE (Wed.)
Week Two (July 2): “Something evil’s lurking in the dark”…

**Read:** (ALL SELECTIONS ON CANVAS UNDER “MODULES” LINK)
from Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*, “Humankind” through “The World is Drowned” (30-43); “The Werewolf” and “In the Company of Wolves” (short stories) by Angela Carter; “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?” (short story) by Joyce Carol Oates

**Watch:** Michael Jackson’s *Thriller* (also on Canvas)

QUIZ (Mon.)
POST (Wed.)

Week Three (July 9-11): “Oft alone companionless…no company had he but his foal…”

**Read:** *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (all) and “The Banks of the Vistula” (story) by Rebecca Lee (on Canvas)

QUIZ (Mon.)
FIRST PAPER DUE (Wednesday at class time)

**Part II: Journey**

Week Four (July 16-18): ‘Young people don’t understand how important it is. To be able to walk through the village without worrying or wondering what the people are whispering about you.’

**Read:** *Ceremony*, by Leslie Marmon Silko (to page 99): Galway Kinnell, “Two Set Out” (poem, on Canvas)

QUIZ (Mon.)
Week Five (July 23-25): *I am not the guide… nor technical assistant… I will be your fellow passenger…*

**Read:** finish *Ceremony*; start *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer (to page 40); “A Journey” (poem) by Nikki Giovanni and “The Things They Carried” (short story) by Tim O’Brien (both on Canvas)

SECOND PAPER DUE (Wednesday at class time)

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Week Six (July 30-August 1): *“God, he was a smart kid…”*

**Read:** finish *Into the Wild*; “The Bear” (poem) by Galway Kinnell; “On the Skeleton of a Hound” (poem) by James Wright & “On ‘On the Skeleton of a Hound’” (essay) by Mark Doty (Canvas)

POST (Mon.)
FINAL EXAM (due Friday, Aug. 3 at 5 p.m.)
Plagiarism: According to the BC Policy on Academic Integrity, “Plagiarism is the deliberate act of taking the words, ideas, data, illustrations, or statements of another person or source, and presenting them as one’s own. Each student is responsible for learning and using proper methods of paraphrasing and footnoting, quotation, and other forms of citation, to ensure that the original author, speaker, illustrator, or source of the material used is clearly acknowledged.” (For the university policy on academic integrity, see [www.bc.edu/integrity](http://www.bc.edu/integrity).) BC does not recognize the excuse of “I didn’t know.” Penalties for plagiarism can range from failing an assignment or course to suspension or expulsion from the university. If you have any questions about plagiarism, I invite you to speak with me. You will never be judged or penalized for asking questions or expressing concerns before an assignment is submitted; once it has been submitted, however, I will follow BC’s policies in the strictest sense.

Counseling Services: (Gasson Hall 001). If things become rocky for you at any point, or if you would just like someone to talk to—about feeling homesick, having trouble fitting in, or feeling depressed or overwhelmed—there are great people available to listen and help through the University Counseling Services. Call 2-3310 to set up an appointment, or stop in their offices in Gasson. It’s free to all students. You are also always welcome to speak to me, and I can help to connect you to the resources best suited to your concerns.