Metamorphosis
Just as humans have long been fascinated by the possibility of transformation into animal – or monstrous – forms, literary writers from antiquity to modernity have responded to the challenge of how to capture such radical changes in writing. This course investigates narratives of metamorphosis ranging from Ovid and Apuleius to Kafka, Cortázar, Ransmayr, and beyond. We will examine literary cases within their historical contexts, consider the techniques involved in depicting a change of form, and construct our own metamorphosis narratives. While the emphasis will be on written texts, we will also consider the relative advantages and constraints of literary modes of representation as compared to the visual and plastic arts.
Instructor: Holland