

FRANKENSTEIN

EOU HISTORY DEPARTMENT *** PROFESSOR NICOLE HOWARD

The Course

This course is about the role of Frankenstein--the novel and the myth--in modern European history. We begin with an examination of the science that inspired the novel and of the intellectual context for Shelley's ideas. We then consider the themes in Frankenstein, including those of technology, gender, and oppression, as they relate to key events in the 19th and 20th centuries. The novel serves as a lens through which we will explore such issues as imperialism, industrialization, and warfare in Europe.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

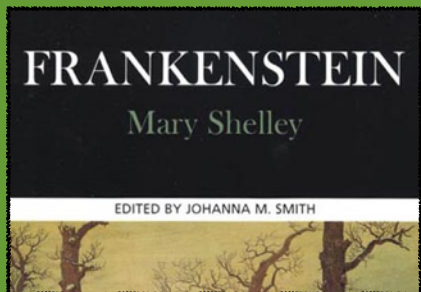
By the end of this course, it is my hope that you will be able to describe how this novel relates to both the Enlightenment period that preceded it and the Romantic era in which it was authored. You should also be able to connect the novel's themes with major events and ideas of the 19th and 20th centuries. Finally, you should leave the course capable of analyzing relevant primary & secondary documents.



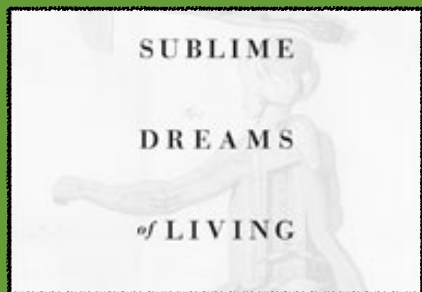
"Archetypes make their way into the conscious part of the mind seemingly from the outside and of their own accord. They are autonomous, sometimes forcing themselves in overpoweringly... they have an aura of divinity which is mysterious or terrifying."

-- Wilson M. Hudson

Books



FRANKENSTEIN, MARY SHELLEY
 "When falsehood can look so like the truth, who can assure themselves of certain happiness?"



SUBLIME DREAMS OF LIVING MACHINES, MINSOO KANG
 "The more lifelike an automaton, the greater the sense of the uncanny sublime."



FRANKENSTEIN: A CULTURAL HISTORY, SUSAN HITCHCOCK
 "Though you seek to bury me, yet you will continuously resurrect me! Once I am unbound, I am unbounded!"

ABOUT ME



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Philosophy of Science

Office Hours MWF 9-10
and T/TH 3-4pm

Fields History of science
and medicine; early modern
European history

“Nothing contributes so much to tranquilize the mind as a steady purpose...”



WHERE WE START, AND WHERE WE'LL END

The course begins with four weeks devoted to the history of man's attempt to create artificial life. From early Greek and Roman myths to medieval Golems and Renaissance homunculi, we'll examine the science and pseudo-science behind the making of life.

The second part of the course is devoted to Shelley's novel. We consider her background and then the novel itself, with daily discussion of the reading. When we're done, we'll consider the novel's reception in England and on the Continent.

The final third of the course is dedicated to the legacy of Frankenstein, and the ways the novel--and the monster--came to represent ideas and transformations well beyond what Shelley imagined. What made the monster such a powerful symbol in modern Europe? This question will drive our study of 19th and 20th century events, as we see how the vision of a teenage girl permeated modern consciousness.

1. Ancient Traditions
2. Medieval Creations
3. Renaissance Secrets
4. The Body as Machine
5. Romantic Bodies
6. The Novel: Part I
7. The Novel: Part II
8. The Industrial Monster
9. Modern Prometheus
10. 21st Century Monsters

NUMBERS

Copies of Frankenstein
initially printed

500

Sale price of signed 1st
edition

\$534k

Age of Mary Shelley
when she wrote it

19

Schedule and Assignments



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This course is built on a point system, with 500 points possible. A grading rubric for papers will be handed out in class as we progress.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT #1 A 600-800 word review of an approved article related to the course's themes. 75 points. Due week 5.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT #2 A 600-800 word review of an approved article related to 19th century European history. 75 points. Due week 9.

GROUP PRESENTATION You will be assigned a group and given a prompt by the professor (TBA) related to course themes. The group must develop a presentation and each group member will write a paper. Groups will debate in class. Due the end of week 4.

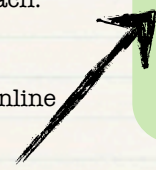
QUIZZES There will be six random quizzes in this course. Come to class prepared, having read all the assigned work by the date it appears on Blackboard. Some quizzes may be done in pairs or groups, others on your own. 10 points each for 50 points total with lowest score dropped.

EXAMS There will be two exams: a midterm in week 6 and a final exam in Finals week. Details will be made available as exam dates approach. Each exam is worth 75 points.

PARTICIPATION You are required to participate both in class and online through the Blackboard Discussion Forum. Participation means contributing to the conversation with substantive comments and questions related to the reading. 100 point.

Assessment	
How Do I Pass?	
500 points	
Writing	30%
Quizzes	10%
Midterm	15%
Final exam	15%
Group Project	10%
Participation	20%

Nota Bene: this course weeks twice weekly for two hours. In addition to class time, you are required to participate online, through Blackboard, in topical discussions. Failure to engage in the online module will result in a lower final grade.



ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to follow the university's code of conduct as outlined in the student handbook. Any incidence of academic dishonesty in this course (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) will result in failure of the course. A report of the incident will also be sent to Student Affairs. There are no exceptions to this policy.

ACADEMIC SERVICES

For assistance with writing assignments, please visit EOU's Writing Center. For research assistance, the Pierce Library staff will prove invaluable. If you have a documented disability or suspect that you have a learning problem and need accommodations, please contact the Disability Services Program in Loso Hall 234. Telephone: 962-3081.

COURSE POLICIES

Late work will not be accepted without prior approval of the professor. If you will be assignments or class time due to a medical issue, you will need to provide documentation. Incomplete grades will only be administered, at the professor's discretion, to students who have completed at least the 7th week of the course.