

LIT 2000

Introduction to Literature:

Frankenstein at 200

FALL 2018



Course Description

Stories make us human. They connect us, and they sustain us just as we sustain them. This is a course about the stories we tell, and why. Together we will learn to approach literary and cultural texts (including fiction, poetry, essays, drama, film, and music) with a critical and creative eye. You will learn the art of close reading and literary analysis as you continue to develop your college-level writing skills, all of which will help prepare you to excel in your major, your career, and at being a sharp, thoughtful, well-rounded citizen of the world.

The theme of course is the bicentennial of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*—one of literature and film's most recognizable stories, first published in 1818 when Shelley was just twenty. We will spend the first few weeks of the course reading the novel, becoming experts in its content and context. The remainder of the course will explore other literary texts which explore the issues of the novel (including monstrosity and hybridity in many forms) and how these themes engage biological and social forces such as ethics, gender, class, race, ethnicity, nature vs. culture, and wildness vs. domesticity.



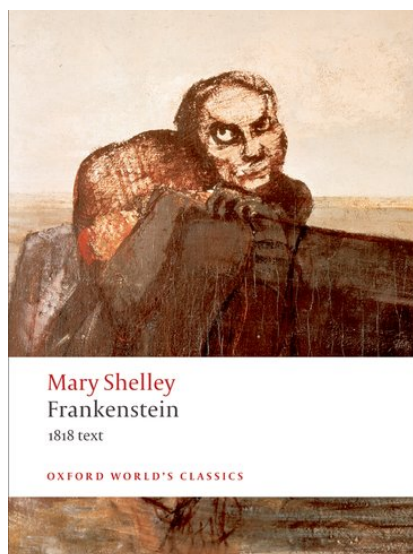
Tuesday + Thursday
11am-12.15pm
Building 74 / Room 105



Dr. Kelly Bushnell
kbushnell@uwf.edu
Building 50 / Room 238
Fall 2018 Office Hours
By Appointment

*"Did I request thee, Maker, from my clay
To mould me man? Did I solicit thee
From darkness to promote me?"*

Paradise Lost (x.743-45)
Epilogue to *Frankenstein*



Textbooks

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein, Or the Modern Prometheus*

Edited by Marilyn Butler

Oxford University Press (2009)

ISBN 9780199537150

You must purchase or rent this exact edition, otherwise not only will you be missing the supplemental information specific to these editions, but your page numbers will be different which will cause you unnecessary headaches.

All other readings are posted on Canvas and must be printed and brought to class. (Except for the chapters of the *Literary Studies* book, which you do not have to print. Just take good notes.)

"We are unfashioned creatures."
Frankenstein, Letter IV

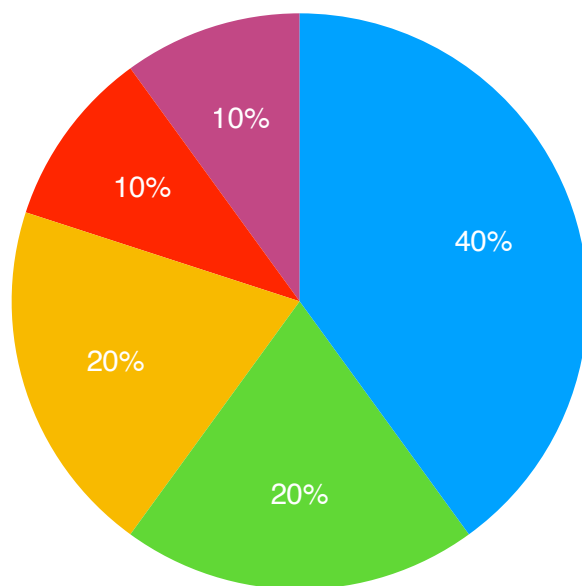
Grades

Grading is on the standard 100-point scale:

A (100-93), A- (92-90), B+ (89-88), B (87-83), B- (82-80), C+ (79-78), C (77-73), C- (72-70), D+ (69-68), D (67-60).

Note: ***You must receive a grade of C- or higher to satisfy your General Education requirement.***

Late written work will have one letter grade deducted for every day it is late. Reading Quizzes default to zero on the due date/time, with no makeups (since we discuss these in class).



● Journals ● Reading Quizzes ● Final Project ● Attendance ● Syllabus and Plagiarism Quizzes

Academic Conduct and Plagiarism

The Official UWF Statement: The Student Code of Conduct sets forth the rules, regulations, and expected behavior of students enrolled at UWF. Violations of any rules, regulations, or behavioral expectations may result in a charge of violating the Student Code of Conduct. It is the student's responsibility to read the Student Code of Conduct and comply with these expectations. The Academic Misconduct Policy defines various forms of academic misconduct and describes the procedures an instructor should follow when they that a student has violated the Academic Misconduct Policy. **To which I add:** Your first assignment is a trio of short readings and quizzes designed to help you parse out what is an ethical vs. unethical use of sources. Most of the plagiarism I see in this course is not malicious—it's accidental because students haven't necessarily been taught how to interact with sources. Don't hesitate to ask if anything is unclear.

UWF Writing Lab

UWF has a spectacular Writing Lab with a range of **free** services. Book a one-on-one paper-reading appointment with one of the “Labbies” who will assist you with revisions in content, form, mechanics, and style of your essays. You will be required to visit them at least once this term, but they are available to you year-round. Check out their services here: <http://uwf.edu/cassh/support-resources/writing-lab/>.

UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA | Department of English

If (when!) you are interested in a major or minor in English (encompassing literature, rhetoric, and/or creative writing), let me know and I'll get you in touch with our department advisor.

Student Learning Outcomes

LIT 2000 is designated as a General Education course. The General Education curriculum at the University of West Florida is designed to provide a cohesive program of study that promotes the development of a broadly educated person and provides the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in university studies. This course has been approved as meeting your requirement in the **Humanities** area.

The major General Education learning outcomes for this course are **Writing** and **Diversity Skills**:

Writing: Communicating effectively and persuasively in multiple writing modes.

Diversity Skills: Interacting effectively with individuals who do not share your heritage.

My goals for you this term:

Gain a familiarity with reading and analyzing a range of literary forms and genres including fiction, poetry, essays, criticism, music, film, and other media and cultural texts.

Learn how to craft thoughtful arguments about what a text is trying to say.

Use specific literary and critical terms when speaking and writing about assigned works.

Recognize common themes about the human condition present in literary and cultural texts. Continue to sharpen our critical eyes toward the myriad “texts” always around us, to speak and write lucidly about them, and take these skills into our other studies and our careers.

Attendance Policy

Here is the attendance policy as dictated by the state of Florida: Attendance policies for General Studies courses such as LIT 2000 are dictated by the General Studies Course Attendance Policy for FTIC (First Time in College) Students, which reads “Student attendance in General Studies Courses is mandatory” (AC-33.01-12/14). This is a General Education course for which regular attendance and participation is required. Classes will include short attendance assignments that may only be turned in during the class meeting time. If you miss class or do not complete the attendance record or task, you are absent. Only those absences that are defined in the University class attendance policy will be considered excused absences. You are allowed **2 unexcused absences** in this class. If you have more than 2 unexcused absences, your final attendance grade will be reduced accordingly.

Information for students who receive financial aid: To receive financial aid on the normal distribution timeline, attendance must be confirmed within seven calendar days of the course start date. A student may review confirmed attendance status by using the "My Classes" app in MyUWF. A student who stops attending class for any reason will **not** automatically be withdrawn and will still be responsible for any missed work. A student who stops attending class may be awarded a grade of NF. This grade may affect financial aid eligibility or require repayment of funds awarded.

Names and Pronouns

If your name and/or pronouns differ from those on my roster, please let me know so we can all be ourselves in class.



"What an astonishing thing a book is. It's a flat object made from a tree with flexible parts on which are imprinted lots of funny dark squiggles. But one glance at it and you're inside the mind of another person, maybe somebody dead for thousands of years. Across the millennia, an author is speaking clearly and silently inside your head, directly to you. Writing is perhaps the greatest of human inventions, binding together people who never knew each other, citizens of distant epochs. Books break the shackles of time. A book is proof that humans are capable of working magic."

Carl Sagan, from *Cosmos* (1980), Episode 11 "The Persistence of Memory"

Students with Special Needs

The University of West Florida supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos and podcasts, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC). Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the individual. For information regarding the registration process, e-mail sdrc@uwf.edu or call 850.474.2387.

Resources for Veterans

The UWF Military & Veterans Resource Center (MVRC) serves as a leading campus advocate for military and veteran students, working to ensure the needs of these individuals are met through coordinating with multiple university offices and services. The center provides assistance with the following: GI Bill education benefits, active duty tuition assistance, out of state fee waiver, tutoring, paper reading, counseling, disability accommodations, coordinating academic advising and referral to state /federal resources and services. The MVRC is located in Building 38. For more information on MVRC service, call 474-2550 or visit <http://uwf.edu/militaryveterans>.

Lastly, please be proactive about your education. If at any time you have questions or concerns about the class, please see me. Furthermore, I understand that you all have responsibilities outside of class to family, work, etc. If there is something major happening in your life that you feel comfortable sharing with me I hope you will, so that I know how to best support you in your studies during that time. When you have read this syllabus to completion please email me a picture of a dinosaur.

LIT 2000 Course Schedule

Pro tips on reading for this class: Read texts in the order listed and take good notes. (We'll talk about what "good notes" look like on the first day.) Readings labelled "Above and Beyond" are not required, but I will likely reference them in class so check them out if you have the time and/or inclination.

Date	Reading	Due
Week 1	Intro to "Intro to Lit"	
T 8/28	Greetings	
Th 8/30	Kate Chopin, "The Storm" (<i>Warning: PG-13 for adult situations.</i>) Stephen Siddall, "Symbolic Nature"	Syllabus Quiz Plagiarism Quizzes x3 Introduce Yourself on Discussion Board
Week 3	<i>Frankenstein</i>, Volume I	
T 9/4	<i>Frankenstein</i> , Vol. I, Letter 1-4 and Ch. I-III (pp. 5-38) Watch: " <i>Frankenstein: The Modern Prometheus</i> Extra Sci-Fi #1" Read: Richard Holmes, "Science fiction: The science that fed <i>Frankenstein</i> ." <i>Nature</i> , Vol. 535, pp. 490-492 (28 July 2016).	Quiz #1 (pp. 1-38) Journal #1
Th 9/6	<i>Frankenstein</i> , Vol. I, Ch. IV-VII (pp. 38-68) Above and Beyond: Jeffrey J. Cohen, "Monster Theory (Seven Theses)"	Quiz #2 (pp 38-68)
Week 3	<i>Frankenstein</i>, Volume II	
T 9/11	<i>Frankenstein</i> , Vol. II, Ch. I-Vii (pp. 69-110)	Quiz #3 (pp. 69-110)
Th 9/13	<i>Frankenstein</i> , Vol. II, Ch. VIII-IX (pp. 110-123)	Quiz #4 (pp. 110-123)
Week 4	<i>Frankenstein</i>, Intermission	
T 9/18 Th 9/20	Dr. B. is out of town this week, so begin reading Volume III, and write Journal #2 (due Friday at midnight).	Journal #2
Week 5	<i>Frankenstein</i>, Volume III	
T 9/23	<i>Frankenstein</i> , Vol. III (pp. 125-191)	Quiz #5 (pp. 125-191)
	Above and Beyond: Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "Rime of the Ancient Mariner"; Nick Hayes, "Rime of the Modern Mariner"	
Th 9/27	Review the novel and write	Journal #3

Date	Reading	Due
Week 6	200 Years of <i>Frankenstein</i>	
T 10/2	Martha Serpas, "Our Life Between Sea and Oil" Joey Eschrich, "How Frankenstein's Monster Became Sexy," <i>Slate</i> (2018) Above and Beyond: <i>Frankenstein in Baghdad, Destroyer</i>	
Th 10/4	<i>Inuksuk</i> (download from iBooks) Gwendolyn MacEwan, " <i>Terror</i> and <i>Erebus</i> " and Northern theatre Above and Beyond: <i>The Terror</i> (novel by Dan Simmons and show on AMC)	Journal #4
Week 7	Short Fiction and Film: Post-Apocalyptic Visions	
T 10/9	<i>Mad Max: Fury Road</i> (2015) (Stream on Canvas. Warning: Dystopian gore.) Noël Sturgeon, Ecofeminism and Environmental Justice Overview Sarah Mirk, "The Ecofeminism of <i>Mad Max</i> "	
Th 10/11	Margaret Atwood, "Time Capsule Found on the Dead Planet"	Journal #5
Week 8	Short Fiction: Family	
T 10/16	Angela Carter, "The Company of Wolves"	
Th 10/18	Octavia Butler, "Bloodchild"	
Week 9	Poetry: Family	
T 10/23	Anne Bradstreet, "The Author to the Her Book"	
Th 10/25	Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner, "Monster" (video on Canvas)	Journal #6
Week 10	Poetry: Strange Seas	
Tu 10/30	Adrienne Rich, "Diving Into the Wreck"	
Th 11/1	Sarah Lindsey, "Carnivorous Sponges of the Antarctic Ocean" and the rest of <i>Debt to the Bone-Eating Snotflower</i>	Journal #7
Week 11	Poetry: Strange Lands	
T 11/6	Maya Angelou, "My Arkansas" Billie Holiday, "Strange Fruit" Above and Beyond: bell hooks, "Touching the Earth"	Why doesn't bell hooks capitalize her name?
Th 11/8	Exodus 2 Rita Dove, "I have been a stranger in a strange land"	Journal #8
Week 12	Poetry Conclusions	
T 11/13	Louise Erdrich, "Windigo" and "Birth"	
Th 11/8	Think and Write Final Project Assigned Today	Journal #9

Date	Reading	Due
Week 13	Thanksgiving	
T 11/20	Final Project Forum/Coffee and Chat	Final Project Proposal
Th 11/22	No Class — Thanksgiving	
Week 14	Canonicity & Conclusions	
T 11/27	<i>Janelle Monae, "Dirty Computer"</i>	Journal #10
Th 11/29	Discussion of your texts.	Bring a text
Week 15	Conclusions	
T 12/14 Th 12/16	Our last week together is reserved for revisiting whichever themes and texts we decide on as a class, or bringing in a new text of our choosing.	
	Final Projects Due Friday 12/7 at 5pm	

Notes/Doodles