

# **IDH2952-31151(UA01) The many faces of Frankenstein**

## **Class Meetings:**

Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> period (4:05), Little Hall, Room 117 The class also will attend the performance of Frankenstein at the Phillips Center on February 15 at

## **Instructor Information**

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## **Instructor contact:**

This is a team-taught course. You are welcome to contact any of us via our information above or through Canvas messaging, although please copy all instructors in the message. If you email us directly, please use your “.ufl” account and include your name in the body of the email.

## **Course Description/Objectives:**

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, first published anonymously in 1818, has become one of the most famous English-language novels ever written. In the two centuries since its publication, the novel has had a substantial influence over pop culture, medicine, ethics, and literature, with many scholars considering it the first true work of science fiction if not also the first expression of biomedical ethics. Given the way it describes monstrosity, Shelly's work highlights the question of monsterhood- who, or what, makes something monstrous, forcing readers to question whether the monster is the creation or the creator. In the way it highlights these questions and considerations, the book spawned an industry of monster movies- perhaps several hundred that can be considered to explore some aspect of the Frankenstein and the consequences of humanity creating life- especially humanoid life in its own image. This course will explore the story and themes of Shelley's groundbreaking text, with particular focus given to ideas of morality and the process of identifying and defining the monstrous, how Shelly considered and understood science and the responsibility of the creator, and the impact the book has had on human imaginations and how it sparked a conversation engaging 200 years of artists and filmmakers. This class will explore Shelly's original tale and how it influenced the art of story telling- and culture for more than 200 years. Students will watch a range of films derived from the original tale, and attend a screening at the Phillips Center.

## **Required Textbook/s**

*Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley (2nd ed. 1831)

- The book can be rented or purchased through the UF bookstore, Barnes & Noble, and most other bookstores
- The book can also be found online through the Gutenberg Project ( <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/84/84-h/84-h.htm> ). However, a physical copy is recommended.
  - It is not clear which edition of the book is hosted by the Project, nor whether the line/page numbers match the text used in class.

Students are required to attend the **Manual Cinema: Frankenstein event-** <https://performingarts.ufl.edu/events/manual-cinema-frankenstein/> at the Phillips Center- the Honors Program has reserved tickets- although attendance will certainly depend on current health conditions.

*Other course materials* will include brief readings and/or videos.

### **Course Schedule\***

*\*This schedule is tentative and subject to change for certain circumstances (for example, hurricanes)*

<b>Week</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Chapters Assigned (Read to discuss on the date assigned)</b>
1 (1/10))	Introduction, icebreakers, review of syllabus	
2 (1/17)	Martin Luther King holiday- No class	
3 (1/24)	Reading discussion	Introduction, Letters I-IV 3-4
4 (1/31)	Reading discussion	Ch. 5-7
5 (2/7)	Reading discussion "Monsters" in media assignment due	Ch. 8-10
6 (2/14)	Class will not meet on Monday- will attend Manual Cinema on 2/15	
7 (2/21)	Manual Cinema Discussion	
8 (2/28)	Reading discussion	Ch. 11-13
9 (3/7)	Week of Spring Break- No class	
10 (3/14)	Reading discussion	Ch. 14-17
11 (3/21)	Reading discussion	Ch. 18-21
12 (3/28)	Reading discussion	Ch. 22-24, Walton continuation
13 (4/4)	Comparison discussion	Turn in Comparison Assignment

<b>Week</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Chapters Assigned (Read to discuss on the date assigned)</b>
14 (4/11)	Discussion of final projects	—
15 (4/18)	Discussion of final projects/class wrap up	—

**Grading:** Students will be graded based on a combination of participation/attendance, assignments, and a final project. UnCommon Reads are primarily discussion-based courses, and it is imperative that every student attends class and contributes to the conversation. Doing so will earn you your participation credit. In addition, several short assignments will be given throughout the semester. These assignments are intended to help you delve deeper into specific themes and aspects of the novel. The final portion of your grade will come from the final project. This project will be an opportunity for you to focus on a specific theme, scene, or aspect of the novel and explore it by writing an essay or creating an art piece.

**\*Completion of all requirements is needed for receiving a grade in the class.**

**Attendance :** Attendance in this course is mandatory. One absence will be allowed without a deduction of points; every absence beyond one will result in a **reduction of 10 points from the final grade**. One additional absence documented by a doctor’s note can be made up through special write up. If possible, please let the instructors know at least **seven days** in advance that you will be absent for a class.

**Assignments:** The largest portion of the course grade will come from weekly attendance and participation. However, students will also be given assignments for the purpose of furthering their understanding of and engagement with the in-class materials.

- Final Project - See **Final Project** section
- Comparison: Pick a re-creation/reinterpretation of the story- movie, cartoon, TV show, game, video game, book- and write a response that considers it in comparison to Shelly’s story. Does it seem accurately to recreate the original vision? Does it sensationalize the original, or seem to reinterpret it to make sense in a different time? Does it show sympathy for the monster or the creator? Does it pick up on and consider the ethical or entertainment issues in the story?
- “Monster” in media – because it raises questions about who is the monster- creator or creation- the book helps us discuss how we create our own monsters. As a society we use the term “monster” to designate those whose behavior is absolutely unacceptable- a designation that can change over time in response to events, societal priorities and fears/ In this assignment, students will analyze examples of the way that the word “monster” is used in society- past or present.
- Critique of the Manual Cinema event.

**Final Project:** For the final project, students will explore a topic or issue raised in the text or in subsequent discussions/readings/assignments that explores in transformative ways- ie critical analysis/synthesis rather than restating class themes.

- Written essay: must be 400 word minimum, 1000 words maximum. Students must use at least 5 sources, one of these sources can be the novel, and these sources must be provided via a “Works Cited” page. If you have a question over whether a particular source is valid, ask the instructors.
- Art piece: The work may come in any medium so long as it meets the requirements of the assignment (transformative, explores a specific topic or issue, makes connections to other parts of the text or outside sources, etc.). The student must also provide a 150-300 word description of the piece and its interpretation of/connection to the text.

**Points Breakdown:** Final grades in the course will be awarded based on the following criteria:

1. Attendance and in-class participation (40 points)
2. Final Project (20 points)
3. Comparison of New and Older Depiction of the issues (15 points)
4. Critique of Manual Cinema event (10 points)
5. “Monster” in media assignment (15 points)

**Grade scale for class points awarded:**

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	<60

**Diversity and Inclusion Statement:** We intend this course to be helpful and engaging for students of all diverse backgrounds and perspectives and that your learning needs are served in and out of class. It is our intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: age, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, nationality, race, religion, sexuality, and socioeconomic status. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated.

It is our goal to make all class materials and assignments accessible to everyone, using the principles of universal design for learning.

**Disabilities:** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the instructor

when students request accommodation. Specifically, if you require specific academic accommodations, please avail yourself of the resources of the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/>, 352-392-8565) and discuss this with us as soon as possible in the semester.

**Academic Honesty:** All students sign the following statement upon registration at the University of Florida: “I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.” As instructors for this course, we fully support the intent of the above statement and will not tolerate academic dishonesty.

**Student Responsibility:** Students are responsible for understanding all course policies and for accessing all course materials on the UF E-Learning Website through the URL listed above. All assignments should be submitted through the website and in hard copy when requested. Students are also responsible for checking their UF e-mail account for course notifications and for communicating with the instructors related to any situation that may hinder his or her progress or participation in the course.

**In-Class Recording:** Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

