

IDH2930-0232(26291) “Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein”

Class Meetings:

Monday, 8th period (3:50), Little Hall, Room 117

Instructor Information

Brian Paulsen, Undergraduate Lecturer

Email: bpaulsen1@ufl.edu

Phone: (407) 921-2899

Nina Stoyan-Rosenzweig (she/her)

Email: nstoyan@ufl.edu

Phone: (352) 273-8406

Office: Communicore Building C-203

Instructor contact:

This is a team-taught course. You are welcome to contact any of us via our information above or through Canvas messaging. 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. This course will explore the story and themes of Shelley’s groundbreaking text, with particular focus given to the ideas of morality and “monsterhood.” By the end of the course, students will have gained a greater understanding of the world of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*, as well as a deeper appreciation for the work’s impact and legacy. There will be other brief readings and/or videos assigned to amplify material under discussion.

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.

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)*

Week	Class	Chapters Assigned (Read by the next week)
1 (8/23)	Introduction, icebreakers, review of syllabus	Introduction, Letters I-IV
2 (8/30)	Reading discussion	Ch. 1-2
3 (9/13)	Reading discussion	Ch. 3-4
4 (9/20)	Reading discussion "Monsters" in media assignment due	Ch. 5-6
5 (9/27)	Reading discussion	Ch. 7-8
6 (10/4)	Reading discussion	Ch. 9-10
7 (10/11)	Reading discussion	Ch. 11-12
8 (10/18)	Reading discussion	Ch. 13-14
9 (10/25)	Reading discussion	Ch. 15-16
10 (11/1)	Reading discussion Creature Comparison due	Ch. 17-18
11 (11/8)	Reading discussion	Ch. 19-20
12 (11/15)	Reading discussion	Ch. 21-22
13 (11/22)	Reading discussion	Ch. 23-24, Walton continuation
14 (11/29)	Reading discussion Final projects due	—
15 (12/6)	Final class meeting :(—

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
- Creature comparison essay - Write a short (0.5-1 page essay) comparing the Creature as depicted in the original text to a version of the Creature from an adapted/a derivative work. A recording of the 1931 will be provided on the Canvas site, but another work can be used with approval from the instructors
- "Monster" in media - Assignment analyzing the way that the word "monster" is used in society

Final Project: For the final project, students will explore a specific theme, scene, or character from the novel. The topic is up to the student *so long as it is transformative* (don't simply summarize plot details or class discussions, but make connections to other parts of the text, outside sources, modern/historical context, etc.). The student can submit either a written essay or an art piece.

- 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 scene/character/theme, 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 (50 points)
2. Final Project (20 points)
3. Creature comparison essay (15 points)
4. "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.