

## *English 12 Honors:*

# Mary Shelley, the Romantics, and The Birth of Frankenstein

*A Supplemental English 12 honors course*

**English 12 Honors Students,**

I am very excited to be able to meet with you during Senior Projects for our Honors Socratic Seminars to discuss Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. I've managed to collect a selection of poems, letters, scholarly articles, and critical texts that will provide a rich and expansive backdrop by which we will comprehensively analyze this complex text. In other words: we are going to do this novel justice. We will be analyzing this novel and other works of the same literary time period through various biographical, sociological, naturalistic, and feminist approaches. It is my hope that our experience in exploring this novel will be comparable to that of an upper-division collegiate course.

I am considering the meetings we will have over the six weeks to be a course supplemental to the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of English 12. Below, you will find both requirements and a syllabus of what to expect for this course.

### **Requirements:**

These supplemental meetings are required in order to receive honors credit for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of English 12, and are given on a credit/no credit basis. If you pass this supplemental honors course, you receive honors credit; if you do not pass this course, your final grade will be dropped one full letter grade to compensate for honors enrollment. You must attend all six (6) meetings and actively participate in group discussions to receive credit for each meeting.

Throughout this supplemental honors course, you are expected to:

- Read *Frankenstein* in its entirety by our second meeting on .
- Read the supplemental materials for each section of the novel.
- Attend all six (6) Socratic Seminar sessions\*\*\* (Wed, 1:30pm-3pm)
- Come to each discussion with prepared questions, and be ready to participate. (*Students that do not actively participate in discussions may not get credit for the session, and will have to write a 2 page reflection on what was discussed.*)
- Complete a 6-8 page Mixed Media Analysis paper discussing *Frankenstein* through the lens of one of our critical approaches

**\*\*\*NOTE:** *Should you have to miss a meeting for any reason, you are expected to give Stoll 24 hours notice, and will write a 2 page reflection on the materials covered for the session missed. If a second meeting is missed, you will be in jeopardy of losing honors credit, and dropping a letter grade.\*\*\**

## **SYLLABUS: Mary Shelley, the Romantics, and The Birth of Frankenstein** *A Supplemental English 12 Honors Course*

Below are the topics and some of the works that we will be covering at each session:

### **Week 1 (4/26): Mary Shelley and her Daemons - Biography and Preface to *Frankenstein***

- Norton Anthology Preface to *Frankenstein*
- M. Shelley's own preface to 1831 version
- M. Shelley's Letter to Fanny Imlay
- Letter prefaced to *The Vampyre* by J. Polidori
- *Frankenstein* (first third of text read - up to Ch.6)
- Socratic Seminar

### **Week 2 (5/3): Frankenstein the Novel - The Creature vs. The Caricature**

- *Frankenstein* (full text read before this class!)
- Reading Analysis Test
- Clips from films featuring Frankenstein's monster, including *Frankenstein* (1931) and *Young Frankenstein* (1974)

### **Week 3 (5/10): Nature and the Romantics - *Frankenstein* in the context of the Romantic Period (1800-1850)**

- "Mont Blanc" by Percy Bysshe Shelley
- Excerpt from "Child Herald" by Lord Byron
- "Ode to a Grecian Urn" and "Ode to a Nightingale" by John Keats
- Other poems by Wordsworth, Coolidge, etc.

### **Week 4 (5/17): Gods, Devils, and Myths - The Philosophy behind *Frankenstein***

- Excerpts from *Paradise Lost* by John Milton
- The myth of Prometheus
- "The Tyger" and "The Lamb" by William Blake
- Excerpt from *Hindu Gods*

### **Week 5 (5/24): The Female Monster - Mary Shelley & Women in the time of *Frankenstein***

- Literary Criticisms by A. Mellor, W. Veeder, M. Poovak, et al.

### **Week 6 (5/31): 1818 vs. 1831 vs. 2016 - Analyzing differences in two versions (of the novel) and in modern interpretations; critical reception past and present**

- Reviews from 19<sup>th</sup> cent. Literary magazines and quarterlys
- Articles by A. Mellor, M. Butler, L. Lipking, et al.

Materials will be posted online for your convenience at least four days in advance.