

ENGLISH 2140
LITERATURE AND FILM:
Frankenstein's Literary and Cinematic Legacy

MID-TERM TAKE-HOME ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS

20% of final mark

Must be uploaded to Brightspace as a single PDF file before the deadline indicated on the schedule.

Read the following instructions and follow them closely in writing, revising, and carefully editing your mid-term essay.

Comparing the Creature's Re-Creations

Your essay must consider how one of the early twentieth century cinematic adaptations re-imagines the creature's creation in relation to both Mary Shelley's novel (you can refer to the 1818 and/or revised 1831 editions, just be clear and consistent in doing so) and one of the late nineteenth century prose fiction or theatrical adaptations we've considered.

Select one of the following films to use as the basis for your essay: *Frankenstein* (1910, dir. Dawley), *Metropolis* (1927, dir. Lang), *Frankenstein* (1931, dir. Whale), *Bride of Frankenstein* (1935, dir. Whale.)

Select one of the following prose or theatrical pieces to use as a comparative/contrastive reference:

Hoffmann "The Sandman" (1816), Peake, *Presumption; or, the Fate of Frankenstein* (1823), Poe, "Mesmeric Revelation" (1839), Hawthorne, "Rappaccini's Daughter" (1843), or Villiers de L'isle Adam, *L'Ève futur* (1886).

Write a brief, concise, unified, well-organized and clear essay that explores how the creature's creation is represented between the novel and the film, using the other selected prose/theatrical piece for comparative and/or contrastive purposes. Your essay should reflect an awareness of the historical context and formal characteristics of each, and you must choose one of the following themes to inform your thesis and unify your discussion:

- The technological and/or occult means of the creature's creation and how they speak to or draw upon contemporaneous scientific discoveries or media technologies.

OR

- The role played by gender/sexuality in the portrayal of both the scientist/creator and creature, and their embodiment or interrogation of related contemporaneous social issues.

Length: approximately 750 words, absolute maximum 1000 words, excluding quotations and Works Cited (ie, quotations and the Works Cited do not count toward the word count limit.) This is roughly 3-4 pages double spaced, 12-point font, with 1" margins.

The paper should include the following, organized as listed:

- (1) **MLA style first page** with pertinent information (name, course code, professor's name, date) in the upper left corner, (2) On the same page, the beginning of the essay itself, a two part title that begins with the topic you've chosen followed by a colon and a pertinent, catchy and descriptive caption, and (3) on a separate page, following the body of the essay, your **Works Cited**. The essay must be in complete and well-organized paragraphs, clearly written and properly formatted.

Documentation must follow MLA guidelines (8th edition) using parenthetical citations.

Your mid-term essay must include:

- an introductory paragraph including a thesis statement specifying the topic/approach you have chosen and directional information about your approach which specifically identifies the texts you will use.
- Between two and four body paragraphs developing your argument with textual support from the required sources. Consider formal aspects of the novel and film – in the case of the latter, these may include mise-en-scene, camera work, special visual effects, casting and acting techniques, narration and dialogue, and use of diegetic or extra-diegetic sound and music.
- A concluding paragraph that summarizes your thesis while re-affirming its importance.
- A minimum of three direct quotes from the novel, and three specific, detailed references to the film(s), all properly cited. The comparative prose/theatrical text need not be quoted from directly, but must be cited at least once.
- A minimum of one citation from either one of the class lectures (use the lecture title as it appears on the course schedule), **or** from a relevant scholarly secondary source (an academic monograph or journal article you've accessed through the uOttawa library's online catalogue/OMNI/electronic databases.)

You must include a works cited with separate entries for Shelley's novel, the prose fiction/play, the film you choose to focus on and the other source you elect to draw upon. Follow MLA 8th edition conventions for format and citation. Marks WILL be deducted for incomplete or incorrect citation and format.

SAMPLE WORKS CITED ENTRY

Moreland, Sean. "Frankenstein Nations." *English 2140 Literature and Film: Frankenstein's Literary and Cinematic Legacy*. 19 Sept. 2018, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario. Course lecture.