

## Humanities 7 ~ Introduction to the Humanities

### *From Pandora's Box to the 21<sup>st</sup> century: Humanity, Technology, and Homo Deus*



**2018 marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of teenager Mary Shelley's modern myth—Frankenstein—in which *homo sapiens* transforms into *homo deus* (godlike man)**

Today Mary's 'fever dream' of Gothic Romanticism and the first example of the genre of Science Fiction is one of the most influential and timely novels ever written. It pervades our popular culture and a variety of arts, including film, dance, theater, song, literature, poetry, visual arts, video games, and more.

The complexity of its storytelling technique and the richness of its themes and allusions lead us to unexpected connections and insights into the realities of today. The annotated novel will be our main learning tool and jumping-off point for exploring what it means to be human, and how the creative and imaginative impulse sets us apart from other species. We'll explore a variety of topics raised by the novel and its readers, such as: the nature of beauty and ugliness; classical mythology and archetypes; power, gender, and society; ethical dimensions of creating and destroying; unexpected consequences of science and technology; the nature of knowledge; the role of images and words in human perception and understanding. We'll encounter many questions and debates on this journey... and even some answers.

Through the process of multimedia explorations, readings, discussions, and individualized creative projects (no term papers!), you'll taste some of the vast richness of human memory and imagination from its earliest beginnings to the present day. You'll also develop useful skills for "unpacking" complex information in textual, imagistic, and conceptual forms and making useful, insightful connections so that you'll become a better thinker and creator as you pursue your own career, education, and life goals.

**When:** Mondays and Wednesdays 3-5pm **Where:** Petaluma Campus, PC 123

**This is a Late-start/ Early-end class: begins Sept 5<sup>th</sup> / ends Dec 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Required Textbook:** The New Annotated Frankenstein, ed. Leslie S. Klinger, 2017. ISBN 978-0-87140-949-2

- PAPER version only; you'll be writing on various pages for learning activities in and out of class
- New or used is fine. Can be purchased online for under \$25 at various vendors like Amazon, Jet, etc.

*Questions? Need more information? Contact Professor Terri Frongia at [tfrongia@santarosa.edu](mailto:tfrongia@santarosa.edu)*