

Name:
 Subject:
 Instructor: Navdeep Singh Dhillon

COVER SHEET: FRANKENSTEIN

200 POINTS

Submit your paper in a 2 pocket folder as s follows:

1. Legibly write your name and course number (including section) on the front of the folder.
2. Place any peer editing (if applicable), pre-writing, or (working) rough drafts on the left side of the folder.
3. Place your FINAL DRAFT ONLY on the right side of the folder.

Category	3 Excellent Performance	2 Competent Performance	1 Poor Performance	Score
Grammar, Mechanics and Usage (30) sentence construction sentence boundaries verbs (tense and agreement), pronouns (number/agreement) spelling, punctuation, and capitalization	The essay consistently follows the grammatical conventions of Standard Written English.	The essay follows the grammatical conventions of Standard Written English with occasional lapses that do not interfere with meaning.	The essay repeatedly violates the grammatical conventions of Standard Written English resulting in numerous errors that may distract from and/or obscure meaning.	
Introduction and Thesis (20 points)	The essay provides a well developed introduction that situates the topic and contains a clear and focused thesis.	The essay provides an introduction that situates the topic only partially but contains a clear and focused thesis.	The essay lacks an introduction or thesis, and/or the introduction and the slack cohesive.	
Body (100) Direct and consistent link with thesis, and 4 credible sources in support of argument.	The essay offers a unique interpretation and directly analyzes a major theme, accurately and thoughtfully integrates passages, direct/indirect quotations from 4 sources, and makes references to the primary text in support of the argument.	The essay offers a unique interpretation and directly analyzes a major theme, but some of the support may be irrelevant, unspecific, or imprecise; support is not seamlessly integrated and only 3 sources are used; makes references to the primary text in support of the argument.	The essay does not offer any unique interpretation; primarily it is a rehashing of the plot; very little analysis is taking place and much of the support is irrelevant, unspecific, or imprecise; support is not seamlessly integrated and less than 3 sources are used; makes plot related references to the primary text with no real argument to support.	
Conclusion (20)	Conclusion is cogent, thoughtful and logically wraps up the main points of the overall essay.	Conclusion merely restates thesis, summarizes support, and/or introduces new concepts with or without new support.	Conclusion lacks coherence.	

Category	3 Excellent Performance	2 Competent Performance	1 Poor Performance	Score
Development (10) paragraphing transitions	Paragraphs are fully developed and include topic sentences and transitions.	Paragraphs include topic sentences but may lack transitions or full development.	Paragraphs lack development, topic sentences, and/or transitions.	
Style (10) voice perspective creativity	The essay exhibits a distinctive voice, fresh perspective and/or creative approach; essay contains sentence variety; diction is precise and diverse.	The essay exhibits a clear, consistent voice with occasional lapses into colloquialism or casualness; essay contains some sentence variety; diction is generally effective.	Sentence structure is simplistic or convoluted and/or diction is highly repetitive or consistently inaccurate, and/or voice is colloquial or casual throughout.	
MLA Formatting (10)	Consistent with MLA formatting, including 12pt standard font, 1 inch margins, a properly formatted works cited page, and in-text citations.	Generally consistent with MLA formatting conventions, with slight lapses in any of the following: using 12pt standard font, 1 inch margins, a properly formatted works cited page, and in-text citations.	Not following the conventions of MLA formatting; not using 12pt standard font, 1 inch margins; improper formatting/ missing the works cited page and/or in-text citations.	
			Total Score	

****Notes**

1. Not including the works cited page, the highest grade possible if you submit less than 4 pages is a “D” regardless of how well it scores on the above criterion; between 4 ½ and 5 is a “C” ; a modest 10 point penalty will be assessed if a paper is roughly 5 ½ pages .
2. Please review the late policy in the class syllabus for assessment of penalties.

Frankenstein Essay

Length: 6 pages double spaced (not including works cited page)

Date Assigned:

Final Due Date:

Points: 200

Working Rough Draft Due Date:

***due dates for working rough drafts are for the purposes of peer editing. To receive full credit, you must come to class on time with _____ pages and bring _____ hardcopies of your essay (___ for peer editing and ___ for copyediting).

MLA Formatting:

MLA in-text citation, separate works cited page, 1 inch margins all around, 12pt font, Times New Roman, Double Spaced.

Description of Assignment:

Through our readings, discussion, and writing about Mary Shelly's "Frankenstein," major themes and motifs have been brought up. Listed on the next page are some of those themes; if you find yourself interested in themes not listed here which you have interpreted on your own or found through your own research, I encourage you to explore them; just run it by me (chat with me after class or send me an email) and once I approve it, feel free to start your analysis.

Tone:

This is an academic essay and therefore the language to be used must be academic/formal regardless of your theme. The use of "I," "my" or their variants should be used very sparingly (if at all) and eliminate all instances of passive phrases such as "I think that . . ." or "in my opinion . . ."

Audience:

Your audience are people who have read the text and are therefore familiar with its plot and characters.

Purpose:

This is a persuasion essay and as such you are presenting your interpretation with support for your ideas; don't simply rehash the plot or things you find through a cursory google search.

Research Element:

Don't let the term, "research" scare you. Research is simply some form of support to validate your interpretation of a theme. Three sources (including your primary text) should be used to support your thesis. All research must be documented in-text as well as in a separate works cited page. Remember to use reliable and CREDIBLE sources. Sparknotes and Google are also my friends, but they are not my best friends. My best friend is the primary text; it should be yours too.

Frankenstein: Major Themes, Motifs, and Symbols

(taken from my “friend,” Sparknotes.com)

Theme

Themes are the fundamental and often universal ideas explored in a literary work.

Elements of the Gothic Novel

Gothic fiction is a genre of literature that combines elements of both horror and romance. Prominent features of Gothic fiction includes a lonely and isolated landscape/setting, omens, women in distress, women threatened by a powerful male, gloom and horror, abomination and monstrosity, terror (both psychological and physical), mystery, the supernatural, dichotomy of good and evil, Gothic architecture, castles, darkness, death, madness, secrets, unhappiness, the sublime. How does Shelly’s, “Frankenstein” fit the elements of this genre?

Dangerous Knowledge

The pursuit of knowledge is at the heart of *Frankenstein*, as Victor attempts to surge beyond accepted human limits and access the secret of life. Likewise, Robert Walton attempts to surpass previous human explorations by endeavoring to reach the North Pole. This ruthless pursuit of knowledge, of the light (see “Light and Fire”), proves dangerous, as Victor’s act of creation eventually results in the destruction of everyone dear to him, and Walton finds himself perilously trapped between sheets of ice. Whereas Victor’s obsessive hatred of the monster drives him to his death, Walton ultimately pulls back from his treacherous mission, having learned from Victor’s example how destructive the thirst for knowledge can be.

Sublime Nature

The sublime natural world, embraced by Romanticism (late eighteenth century to mid-nineteenth century) as a source of unrestrained emotional experience for the individual, initially offers characters the possibility of spiritual renewal. Mired in depression and remorse after the deaths of William and Justine, for which he feels responsible, Victor heads to the mountains to lift his spirits. Likewise, after a hellish winter of cold and abandonment, the monster feels his heart lighten as spring arrives. The influence of nature on mood is evident throughout the novel, but for Victor, the natural world’s power to console him wanes when he realizes that the monster will haunt him no matter where he goes. By the end, as Victor chases the monster obsessively, nature, in the form of the Arctic desert, functions simply as the symbolic backdrop for his primal struggle against the monster.

Monstrosity

Obviously, this theme pervades the entire novel, as the monster lies at the center of the action. Eight feet tall and hideously ugly, the monster is rejected by society. However, his monstrosity results not only from his grotesque appearance but also from the unnatural manner of his creation, which involves the secretive animation of a mix of stolen body parts and strange chemicals. He is a product not of collaborative scientific effort but of dark, supernatural workings.

The monster is only the most literal of a number of monstrous entities in the novel, including the knowledge that Victor used to create the monster (see “Dangerous

Knowledge”). One can argue that Victor himself is a kind of monster, as his ambition, secrecy, and selfishness alienate him from human society. Ordinary on the outside, he may be the true “monster” inside, as he is eventually consumed by an obsessive hatred of his creation. Finally, many critics have described the novel itself as monstrous, a stitched-together combination of different voices, texts, and tenses.

Secrecy

Victor conceives of science as a mystery to be probed; its secrets, once discovered, must be jealously guarded. He considers M. Krempe, the natural philosopher he meets at Ingolstadt, a model scientist: “an uncouth man, but deeply imbued in the secrets of his science.” Victor’s entire obsession with creating life is shrouded in secrecy, and his obsession with destroying the monster remains equally secret until Walton hears his tale. Whereas Victor continues in his secrecy out of shame and guilt, the monster is forced into seclusion by his grotesque appearance. Walton serves as the final confessor for both, and their tragic relationship becomes immortalized in Walton’s letters. In confessing all just before he dies, Victor escapes the stifling secrecy that has ruined his life; likewise, the monster takes advantage of Walton’s presence to forge a human connection, hoping desperately that at last someone will understand, and empathize with, his miserable existence.

Texts

Frankenstein is overflowing with texts: letters, notes, journals, inscriptions, and books fill the novel, sometimes nestled inside each other, other times simply alluded to or quoted. Walton’s letters envelop the entire tale; Victor’s story fits inside Walton’s letters; the monster’s story fits inside Victor’s; and the love story of Felix and Safie and references to *Paradise Lost* fit inside the monster’s story. This profusion of texts is an important aspect of the narrative structure, as the various writings serve as concrete manifestations of characters’ attitudes and emotions. Language plays an enormous role in the monster’s development. By hearing and watching the peasants, the monster learns to speak and read, which enables him to understand the manner of his creation, as described in Victor’s journal. He later leaves notes for Victor along the chase into the northern ice, inscribing words in trees and on rocks, turning nature itself into a writing surface.

Motifs

Motifs are recurring structures, contrasts, or literary devices that can help to develop and inform the text’s major themes.

Passive Women

Abortion

Symbols

Symbols are objects, characters, figures, or colors used to represent abstract ideas or concepts.

Light and Fire