

# Lisa Hager

## ENG 284: Science Fiction & Fantasy Literature

Please note that the Canvas pages and assignments associated with this project can be accessed via the links below.

- To view and explore in UWM's Canvas: <https://uwmil.instructure.com/enroll/7LHK88>
- To download and import into any Canvas class: <https://lor.instructure.com/resources/e2f4bcbb9e0d4644badf219f6b62d877?shared>

Digital Humanities tools/methods:

Hypothesis and collaborative annotation

Description of assignment:

### Frankenstein, Humanity, & Community Hypothesis Annotation Project and Essay

5 annotations & 3-4 page essay

Using Hypothesis (an online annotation tool), the class will closely analyze a passage from Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* in which the creature reflects on his personhood and connections to other living beings (or lack thereof).

You will then write your own individual essay in which you assess how annotating the text and engaging with your classmates' annotations deepens your understanding of the book and how that relates to the novel's exploration of the intersections of technology, humanity, community, and power.

Outcomes:

Annotations: Close reading of the novel's & reflection on those reading experiences

Essay: Persuasive argument about *Frankenstein* based on close readings of the novel and thoughtful reflection on those reading experiences

Sample assignments:

### Frankenstein, Humanity, & Community Project - Annotation Guidelines

Assignment Goals: close reading of Frankenstein and thoughtful reflection on those reading experiences

Length: 5 original annotations; 2 replies to classmates' annotations

Using Hypothesis (an online annotation tool), the class will closely analyze a passage from Mary Shelley's Frankenstein in which the creature reflects on his personhood and connections to other living beings (or lack thereof).

You will then write your own individual essay in which you assess how annotating the text and engaging with your classmates' annotations deepens your understanding of the book and how that relates to the novel's exploration of the intersections of technology, humanity, community, and power.

### **Questions to Consider as You Annotate the Excerpt from Frankenstein**

- How does the Creature insist on his humanity in his conversation with Victor Frankenstein on Mont Blanc and in his conversation with Walton after Frankenstein's death? In doing so, how does he define what it means to be human?
- How does the Creature differentiate himself from humans (beyond his appearance)? How do his mental, intellectual, and moral capabilities suggest that he has potential to surpass humanity? In what ways does he ultimately fail to do so? How does his demand of a female companion render as abject (Links to an external site.) as he is?
- How does Victor Frankenstein fail to take up the responsibilities and duties of a creator/parent? In what ways does the novel demonstrate that those duties essential to the development of both the individual and society?
- How do you see the themes and questions in Frankenstein as foundational to the genre of science fiction's interest in questioning how we define morality, intellect, and ourselves as a species? How does the novel illustrate the implications of science advancement on any or all of those three themes?

## Annotation Requirements

- Five original annotations of at least 150 words each
- Two images somewhere in your five original annotations
- (click here for directions and guidance on inserting images into Hypothesis annotations)
- All of the five original annotations must include at least one quote from *Frankenstein* with MLA in-text citations (Links to an external site.)
- Two replies to your classmates' annotations of at least 50 words each

## A Note about Format and Works Cited Entries

As you work on your annotations and essays, be sure to take a look at the links under MLA Format Resources on the Home page.

*Frankenstein* should always be italicized throughout your essay when you are referring the novel since book titles are always italicized in MLA format (Links to an external site.).

Below is the works cited entry for the novel:

Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*. Edited by D.L. MacDonald and Kathleen Scherf, 3rd ed., Broadview Press, 2012.

---

# Frankenstein, Humanity, & Community Project - Essay Guidelines

Length: 3-4 pages (at least 3 full pages)

Annotation Assignment: *Frankenstein*, Humanity, & Community Hypothesis Annotations

Now that you have completed your annotations and replies to your classmates' annotations, you will write an essay in which you assess how annotating the text and engaging with your classmates' annotations deepens your understanding of the book and how that relates to the novel's exploration of the intersections of technology, humanity, community, and power.

Please note that you should generally refer to the Creature as the Creature (not the Monster) except if you are using a quote from the novel in which another character refers to him by that term.

### **Central Question of the Essay**

How does Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley's *Frankenstein*, as a foundational text in science fiction, challenge our understanding of what it means to be human and the responsibilities of humans to one another?

### **Potential Related Questions of the Essay**

Note: the bullet points below are NOT an outline for your essay and ought to be addressed throughout your essay. You are welcome to focus on one or more of the questions below in order to answer the more general question above.

- How does the Creature insist on his humanity in his conversation with Victor Frankenstein on Mont Blanc and in his conversation with Walton after Frankenstein's death? In doing so, how does he define what it means to be human?
- How does the Creature differentiate himself from humans (beyond his appearance)? How do his mental, intellectual, and moral capabilities suggest that he has potential to surpass humanity? In what ways does he ultimately fail to do so? How does his demand of a female companion render as object (Links to an external site.) as he is?
- How does Victor Frankenstein fail to take up the responsibilities and duties of a creator/parent? In what ways does the novel demonstrate that those duties essential to the development of both the individual and society?
- How does *Frankenstein* the novel illustrate the implications of science advancement on morality, intellect, and/or ourselves as a species?

### **Final Body Paragraph (i.e. the paragraph before your conclusion paragraph)**

In your final body paragraph, I would like you to reflect on how doing the annotations collaboratively with your classmates shaped your understanding of the novel. For this paragraph, address the questions below:

- How writing annotations on the text itself change your understanding of Shelley's novel? Did certain parts and/or ideas become more or less important to you? Did you discover anything?
- How did the process of writing the annotations shape your sense of science fiction as a genre?
- How did the process of annotating and replying to annotations of your classmates impact your own understanding of *Frankenstein* and/or science fiction in general?

## Requirements

- 3-4 pages (at least 3 full pages) in MLA format with a works cited page (see Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (OWL) and Example Essay
- Have an introduction, multiple body paragraphs appropriate to your ideas, and a conclusion.
- See the recording of class from March 2 (click on Media Gallery in the menu to the left) and the PowerPoint from that class for detailed information and examples of literary analysis essay paragraphs.
- Incorporate specific supporting evidence in the form of quotations for your claims from the following:
  - Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*
  - At least one of the selections in the appendices in the back of the Broadview edition of the novel and/or the "Perspectives: The Wollstonecraft Controversy and the Rights of Women" section in the course packet
  - At least two of the secondary sources from either the course packet, David Seed's *Science Fiction: A Very Short Introduction*, and/or the introduction to *Frankenstein*
  - Be sure to consult the Using Sources Handout for guidance on integrating your quotes into your essay.

You should not include any outside sources or research for this essay, unless you have specifically discussed it with me beforehand.

### A Note about Format and Works Cited Entries

As you work on your essay, be sure to read How to put your essays in MLA format very carefully and take a look at the links under MLA Format Resources on the Home page.

*Frankenstein* should always be italicized throughout your essay when you are referring the novel since book titles are always italicized in MLA format (Links to an external site.).

Essays for this class should be written in Times New Roman, 12pt font with 1 inch margins. The Purdue University OWL's MLA format YouTube Playlist (Links to an external site.) and the Example Essay Format are especially helpful in correctly formatting this first essay.

For formatting your works cited page, see the Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (OWL). All articles in the course packet have their MLA works cited entries at the top of the first page of each article.

Below is the works cited entry for the novel:

Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*. Edited by D.L. MacDonald and Kathleen Scherf, 3rd ed., Broadview Press, 2012.

Selections in the Book or the Course Packet

Selections in the "Perspectives: The Wollstonecraft Controversy and the Rights of Women" section and the appendices in the novel should be cited as a "A Work in an Anthology, Reference, or Collection" (see the Purdue OWL's MLA Works Cite Page: Books for an example of how this should look).

Last name, First name. "Title of Essay." *Title of Collection*, edited by Editor's Name(s),  
Publisher, Year, Page range of entry.

Here is an example of how a works cited entry for one of the appendix selections would look:

Godwin, William. "Political Justice." *Frankenstein*, edited by D.L. MacDonald and  
Kathleen Scherf, 3rd ed., Broadview Press, 2012. pp. 223-230.

The in-text citation for the appendix reading above would be as follows, depending on the page number from which you are quoting:

(Godwin 224)