

THE WORLD OF MARY SHELLEY AND LORD BYRON

Fall 2009 – The Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning – Professor Maurice Bassan

Suggested readings include Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, 1818 (Norton Critical Edition); *Byron's Poetry* (Norton Critical Edition); and Percy Shelley's poems. The first two are available at the Bookstore.

SEPTEMBER 14 Introduction to the chief figures of this world: Mary Wollstonecraft – her husband William Godwin – Mary, their daughter – Mary's husband, Percy Bysshe Shelley – George Gordon, Lord Byron – Byron's doctor, John W. Polidori – and "Claire" Clairmont.

Some definitions of "Romanticism," including Natural Supernaturalism and the Gothic. Begin reading Mary Shelley's novel, including the 1831 Author's Introduction and the background and critical pieces.

SEPTEMBER 21 "British Romantic Poets" (Wordsworth, Coleridge, Keats, Shelley, and Byron)—a film. Lecture on sources including the Prometheus myth, the Golem, and Milton's *Paradise Lost*.

SEPTEMBER 28 [No class. Carry on reading.]

OCTOBER 5 *Frankenstein* (in Norton edition), through Volume II, chapter IX.

OCTOBER 12 [Columbus Day Holiday—no class]

OCTOBER 19 *Frankenstein*, concluded.

OCTOBER 26 Poems by Percy Shelley, including Hymn to Intellectual Beauty, Ode to the West Wind, Adonais, Julian and Maddalo, and shorter poems. Mont Blanc is reprinted in the Mary Shelley volume.

NOVEMBER 2 Poems by Lord Byron (in Norton edition), including Prometheus, Childe Harold's Pilgrimage, the Prisoner of Chillon, and Don Juan.

NOVEMBER 9 Byron's Manfred and Shelley's Prometheus Unbound: the Frankenstein connection. Byron's letters and journals.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTED READINGS

Supplement the bibliographies in the two Norton Editions (*Frankenstein* and *Lord Byron's Poetry*) with these primary and secondary works. Also recommended: Norton Anthology of English Literature, Vol. 2

MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT GODWIN'S FAMILY

Godwin, William. *Enquiry Concerning Political Justice*. 1793. Caleb Williams, 1794.

Gordon, Lyndall. *Vindication: A Life of Mary Wollstonecraft*. 2005.

Johnson, Claudia, ed. *Cambridge Companion to Mary Wollstonecraft*. 2002.

Wollstonecraft, Mary. *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. 1792. [Ed. Carol H. Poston, 1975]

MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT SHELLEY

Bennett, Mary T. & Charles E. Robinson, eds. *The Mary Shelley Reader*. 1990.

Bloom, Harold. *Bloom's Major Literary Characters: Frankenstein*. 2004.

Glut, Donald F., ed. *The Frankenstein Catalog*. 1984. [Lists 2666 items]

Hitchcock, Susan T. *Frankenstein: A Cultural History*. 2007.

Hoobler, Dorothy & Thomas. *The Monsters: Mary Shelley and the Curse of Frankenstein*. 2006.

Morton, Timothy, ed. *A Routledge Literary Sourcebook on Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*. 2002.

Pearce, Joseph, ed. *Frankenstein*. 2008.

Small, Christopher. *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein: Tracing the Myth*. 1973.

PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY

Brenton, Howard. *Bloody Poetry* [play]. 1984.

Holmes, Richard . *Shelley: The Pursuit*. 1974.

Morton, Timothy, ed. *Cambridge Companion to Shelley*. 2006.

Reiman, Donald H. & Sharon B. Powers, eds. *Shelley's Poetry and Prose* [Norton Critical Edition]. 1977.

GEORGE GORDON, LORD BYRON

Bone, Drummond, ed. *Cambridge Companion to Byron*. 2004.

Shilstone, Frederick W., ed. *Approaches to Teaching Byron's Poetry*. 1991.