

HIST 3635: SCIENCE AND POPULAR CULTURE PAPER ASSIGNMENT

Write a paper contrasting the depiction of the monster in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus* with that of the Maria robot in the Fritz Lang's movie *Metropolis*. I'd like you to focus on three particular themes from the following list of four:

- gender (which would include issues such as masculinity, sexuality, behavior, etc.)
- the role of the 'creator'
- the place of rational 'science' in each context
- the monster/machine as a source of order/disorder in the world

For each theme that you focus on:

- quote a short passage from *Frankenstein*
- describe a specific scene from *Metropolis*

Remember to ground your paper in a historical context. In other words, I'd like to see some thoughts on the broader cultural context of both Shelley's time (early 19th century) and the period when Lang made his movie (early 20th century).

In this paper, your two primary sources will be the novel and the movie, but I require that you use two additional and legitimate *secondary* sources to support your argument; you will need to use these secondary sources to describe broader historic or thematic issues. One of those secondary sources can be the reading (by Jordanova) that I assigned for you to read. The other has to be from *another* academic journal or a book published by a legitimate press.

For secondary sources, go to the "Useful Websites" section of the course website and then to "Online Secondary Sources." Use the links there to search for academic journal articles on the topic of Frankenstein, nature, science, modernity, etc. You may also use actual scholarly books from the library on the topic.

I do not accept Wikipedia as a legitimate source for your paper, or for that matter, random websites, blogs, or other professor's lectures.

For this paper, use one of two citation methods: in-text MLA-style citations, or footnotes. Do not mix up both. In each case, you have to follow the conventions of the University of Chicago press. If you don't know how to do that, go to the course website, and see the section on "How to Cite Sources in a Scholarly Paper."

The length of the paper should be about 750-1,000 words (i.e., about 3-4 pages). All papers should be on 8" X 11" paper, double-spaced, in 12 pt Times Roman font, with 1" X 1" margins.

Please also include a bibliography and an original title to your paper.

The paper is due in class on **February 12** (Monday).