In 1818 Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley’s *Frankenstein, or the modern Prometheus* -- arguably the first science fiction novel -- was published. In it, Shelley established some of the basic themes which continue to define the genre, such as the exploration of the societal (economic, political) implications of newly-discovered scientific knowledge, the moral responsibilities of scientists both to their societies and to the subjects/products of their research, and the distinctions between living and non-living, and humanly- and naturally-created.

However, despite its beginnings, women’s voices were/are in a minority in science fictional explorations of creativity. Perhaps because science fiction is realistic fiction, or fiction dependant on scientific knowledge and the “particular consensus reality...of the scientific community” (Clute & Nichols, 1995; p.408), it developed predominantly as a reflection of the class, ethnicity and gender composition of that community.

In this course, we will explore the ways in which women have used science fiction as a means to make public and problematic the processes of generating apparently objective and neutral scientific knowledge, to enquire about the morality of creation, and to take some control of the process of modern/industrial decision-making.

**Required Reading**


**Recommended Reading** (selections from the following)

Shelley, Mary. 1818 (1981 ed). *Frankenstein, or the modern Prometheus.* New York: Bantam
VonArburg, Elisabeth. 1992. *In the mother’s land.* New York: Bantam

**Evaluation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research paper (10-12 pages)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal (9 assignments)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm test</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book reviews (3)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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*Women’s Studies Graduate courses are offered in conjunction with undergraduate courses. Graduate students are requested to meet with the instructor to discuss the increased workload and grading expectations.*