WS 305-4  Special Temporary Topic: Conceiving creativity: exploring social justice studies of science and religion using science fiction

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Through the lens of science fiction, this course focuses on scientific and religious accounts of creativity, and of responsibility for (and to) the outcomes of that creativity. In considering the range of relations amongst science and religion, it draws upon theory from feminist and other social justice studies of science and religion, including such topics as representation, participation and motivation within professional and grassroots communities.

By the end of this course, students will have been introduced to:
1. the general field of creativity studies, including some of the key theories and concepts, and historical shifts in societal understandings of the term, create, and its derivatives;
2. political, economic and sociopsychological analyses related to creativity, particularly in relation to identity and power;
3. social justice studies (feminism, antiracism, postcolonial, disability, queer, environmental), including some of the key theories and concepts; and
4. the general field of narrativity studies, with a particular focus on narrative ethics and discourse analysis.

Required readings:
Hartwell, D., Cramer, K.(eds) 2002 Year's Best SF 7 New York, Bantam
Shelley, M. (1818 ed.) Frankenstein: or the modern Prometheus New York, Penguin-Putnam
Willis, C.1993 Doomsday book New York, Bantam
Course reading package and workbook

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
Analysis papers (3-4 pages; three at 10% each) 30%
Group report 10%
Narrative review 10%
Attendance and participation 10%
Journal (3-4 pages; two at 10% each) 20%
Application paper (8-10 pages) 20%

The Department of Women's Studies encourages clarity of thought and expression and good writing. Students will be evaluated on these skills in all courses given by the Department.