Conceiving Creativity: Exploring social justice studies of science and religion using science fiction

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, including some of the key theories and concepts; and
4. the general field of narrativity studies, with a particular focus on narrative ethics.

REQUIRED TEXTS
Shelley, M. (1818 ed.) Frankenstein: or the modern Prometheus New York, Penguin-Putnam
Willis, C.1993 Doomsday book New York, Bantam

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING STRUCTURE
Analysis papers (3-4 pages) 20%
(2, 10% each)
Midterm examination 25%
Narrative review 10%
Attendance and participation 10%
Journal (3-4 pages) 10%
(2, 5% each)
Application paper (8-10 pages) 25%

UNDERGRADUATE PREREQUISITES
30 credit hours. Students who have taken WS 310 (Special Topics) under this title may not take WS 305 for further credit.

** The Graduate Course WS 830-5 is offered in conjunction with WS 305. Students registered in the graduate section of this course will be required to complete extra work as assigned by the professor such as a research paper of 20-25 pages in length and/or supplementary discussion/meeting times.