WS 830 – Special Topics Graduate Seminar: Conceiving Creativity
(cross-listed with WS 305 undergraduate course)

Dr. Marilyn MacDonald
marilynm@sfu.ca
778-782-5688
Office #: 5105A

This course will explore the ways in which women have used science fiction as a means to investigate the different relationships between science and religion, particularly to further social justice/care and sustainable community.

After the course, your should have:
1. familiarized yourself with feminist approaches to the study of science and religion;
2. investigated different interrelationships between science and religion;
3. developed a basic understanding of the meaning of science and religion at different levels, including epistemology, methodology, community and relationship to society;
4. traced the connections between scientific and religious world views and value systems, and the understandings of social justice and care in society;
5. considered how definitions of self and other (through cultural relations of gender, race and class) interact with scientific and religious world views.

Required readings:
Shelley, Mary. 1981 (1818 ed.) Frankenstein, or the modern Prometheus. NY. Bantam.

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
Research paper (25-30 pages)  30%
Essay presentation  5%
Midterm test  35%
Narrative review (8-10 pages)  20%
Small group/other discussions/participation  10%

Prerequisites: 30 credit hours

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.