

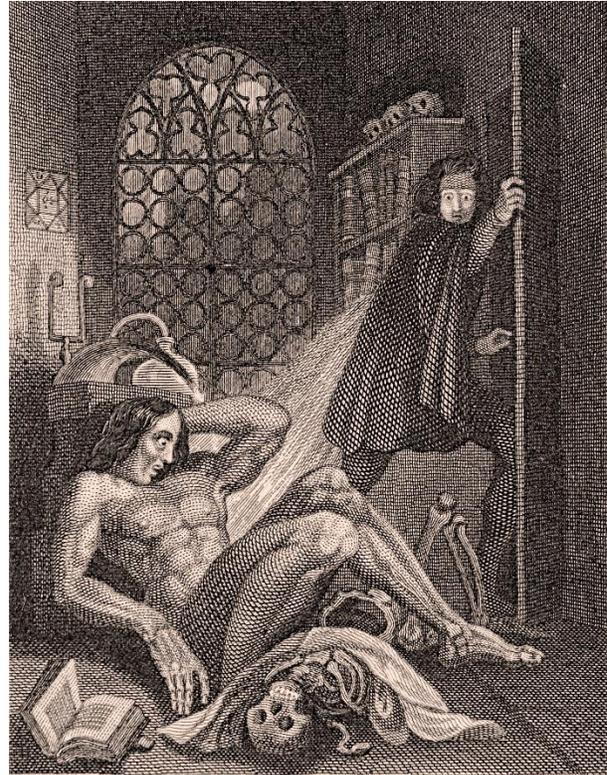
**Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus
by Mary Shelley**

4 weekly sessions: Sundays, January 7–28 |
12:00–2:00 p.m.

Tuition: \$200

Led by Edward G. Pettit, Manager of Public
Programs at the Rosenbach

Two hundred years ago, in January 1818, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* ushered in a new age of monsters in the 19th Century, a time when scientific and technological advancement had seemed to sweep away the supernatural terrors of the folkloric past. Shelley created a new kind of monster. Her creature was the first sympathetic monster, a doomed being who commits horrific acts, yet pleads for justice and love from his creator. In this course, we'll learn about the birth of Shelley's book and read other texts of the Romantic Age that also grapple with the same scientific, theological, and aesthetic issues as her novel. We'll also look at the development of the Frankenstein myth over the last two centuries.



Frontispiece for 1831 edition of Frankenstein

Before coming to the Rosenbach, Edward G. Pettit taught literature and writing at La Salle University for ten years, including many courses on monsters and horror literature. He has taught several courses for the Rosenbach on 19th Century authors, including Edgar Allan Poe, George Lippard, Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, and Arthur Conan Doyle.

Reading schedule: For the first class, please read Vol 1 (the first 7 chapters) of the 1818 edition of *Frankenstein*.

We'll cover Volumes 2 and 3 in the next two weeks, along with supplemental readings I'll provide.

For the last meeting, we'll discuss the two film versions made by James Whale in the 1930s, starring Boris Karloff: *Frankenstein* (1931) and *Bride of Frankenstein* (1935).

Other supplementary readings will be posted or distributed by the instructor.

Text: In this course, we'll use the 1818 edition of *Frankenstein*. Shelley revised her text for the 1831 version, so that text will be different in places. We will be reading the version her first readers read. Many editions on the market use the revised 1831 edition for its text, so be sure to have an edition that says "1818 edition." That old copy on your shelf is probably an 1831 version.

Here are a few good versions of the 1818 edition:
Norton Critical Edition edited by J. Paul Hunter

<https://www.amazon.com/Frankenstein-Second-Norton-Critical-Editions/dp/0393927938/>

Oxford World Classics edited by Marilyn Butler

<https://www.amazon.com/Frankenstein-Modern-Prometheus-1818-Text/dp/0199537151/>

There are also three annotated editions that use the 1818 text and are all excellent:

The Annotated Frankenstein edited by Susan Wolfson (Harvard)

<https://www.amazon.com/Frankenstein-Modern-Prometheus-1818-Text/dp/0199537151/>

Frankenstein: Annotated for Scientists, Engineers, and Creators of All Kinds edited by Guston et al (MIT Press)

<https://www.amazon.com/Frankenstein-Annotated-Scientists-Engineers-Creators/dp/0262533286/>

The New Annotated Frankenstein edited by Les Klinger (Norton)

<https://www.amazon.com/New-Annotated-Frankenstein-Mary-Shelley/dp/0871409496/>

The Rosenbach has several signed copies of Les Klinger's edition if you are interested in this one.



The Creature (Boris Karloff) confronts his maker (Colin Clive) in James Whale's 1931 film.