

One of the first depictions of Mary Shelley's creature in Frankenstein.

THE CREATURE SPEAKS: The Voices of Science in Culture

- English 2090

Alan Rauch

Room 290E Fretwell

Telephone: 687-6158

e-mail: arauch@email.uncc.edu

URL: <http://www.uncc.edu/arauch>

Office Hours: Mon. 10-11 a.m.; Wed., 1-2 p.m. & by appt.

The Course:

The premise of this course is that science and the arts are not polar opposites, but rather intersecting modes of making the knowledge we call "culture." The course will explore the rhetorical structures we use to communicate ideas that have "scientific" or "technical" significance. But our understanding of the world is not simply drawn from "science"; literature, poetry, art, dance, and music are all forms of intellectual inquiry as well. They influence and shape science and technology, just as they are shaped by scientific knowledge. The texts that we'll look at --ranging from Mary Shelley's novel *Frankenstein* (1818) to Tom Stoppard's play, *Arcadia* (1993)-- include rhetorical studies and scientific "cases." Together, they will help us understand the ways in which knowledge is represented and mediated in culture.

This course will satisfy EITHER the "L" Goal or the "C" goal, BUT NOT BOTH!

By the end of the course, you will...

L

- ...be conversant with, and have had experience in, the aims and methods of the great intellectual, spiritual, literary, and artistic expressions that have shaped the development of the human imagination.
- ...understand the importance that abstract ideas and artistic images have in the process of self understanding and in the shaping of society.

C

- ...understand how institutions operate with societies in both contemporary and historical perspectives.
- ...understand internal and external influences which promote and inhibit human action.
- ...understand the patterns of change which individuals experience at various points in life.
- ...recognize the complex, integrated, and dynamic nature of human behavior and human experience.
- ...understand the commonalities, differences, and interdependence among and within societies of the world.

The Texts:

Darwin, Charles Robert. *The Autobiography of Charles Darwin*. W. W. Norton, 1993. ISBN: 0-393-31069-8.

Latour, B. and S. Woolgar. *Laboratory Life: The Construction of Scientific Facts*. 2nd ed. Princeton UP, 1986. 0-691-02832-X.

Myers, Greg. *Writing Biology*. U. Wisconsin Press. 0-299-12234-4

Pinch, Trevor and Harry Collins. *The Golem*. U. Cambridge Press. 1998. 0-521-64550-6.

Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*. Oxford U. Press.

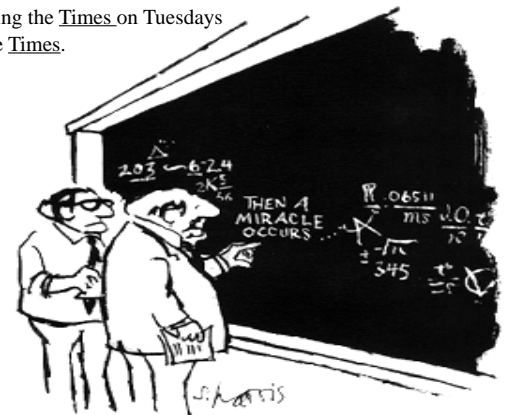
Stoppard, Tom. *Arcadia*. Faber and Faber, 1994. 0-571-16934-1

New York Times. (Tuesday Edition, "Science Times") Students are responsible for getting the *Times* on Tuesdays and reading the "Science Times" section. At least one assignment will be drawn from the *Times*.

Grading:

Job Letter/Resume.....	0%
Abstract.....	10%
Classification/Definition.....	10%
Annotated Bibliography.....	10%
Literature Review/Justification.....	20%
Essay.....	20%
<i>New York Times</i> Presentation.....	10%
Quizzes.....	10%
Class Participation.....	10%

There will be quite a few handouts. Bring a binder and a notebook to class. Do not get behind on any of the assignments. If you are having trouble of any kind, please talk to me.



"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."

Class Participation:

Attendance is, of course, required, but course participation involves more than just showing up. It means that you are expected to keep up with the reading and writing assignments, as well as participate in workshops and class discussions. This course deals with theoretical issues as well as practical assignments, so what happens in class is very important.

Honor Code

Every student and instructor enters into a tacit "contract" with each other that depends on honesty, responsibility, and mutual respect. While UNC Charlotte doesn't have a formal Honor Code, it should always be understood that we are working together toward the same end and with equal confidence in each other.

If you are uncertain about what plagiarism means or how to cite material properly, talk to me.