

## SCIENCE AND LITERATURE IRP, Spring 2015, Syllabus

Coordinator: John Gillespie

1. Faustian mythology: exchange of integrity or ethics for knowledge.  
Goethe's *Faust*, Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*.

2. Shelley's *Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus*: the first science fiction novel, the enduring mythology.

Presentation: The Mad Scientist, image through the centuries

3. *Frankenstein*, cont.

Presentations:

- What is "living"?; artificial organs; extraterrestrial life; artificial intelligence
- *Frankenstein* films: Karloff, Branagh, Brooks, etc.

4. Ethics and responsibility in the atomic era: post-Hiroshima theater

Review of *Galileo* and *Copenhagen*.

German postwar theater: Durrenmatt, Kipphardt, Hochhuth

5. Close reading *In the Matter of J. Robert Oppenheimer*

Presentations:

- Physics of A-bomb and H-bomb; video
- HUAC and the McCarthy era; Oppenheimer and Teller interviews

6. *Oppenheimer*, cont.

Adams' opera *Dr. Atomic*

7. Travel in space & time

Presentation: Space and time in science and philosophy

Wells, *The Time Machine*

8. Wells, cont.

Presentations

- Time in literature: time travels; life elsewhere
- Films about time

9. Time fantasies: *Einstein's Dreams*

Presentation: Relativity, space, time in physics

10. *Einstein's Dreams*, cont.

11. Musical: *Einstein's Dreams*  
Presentation: class writings on time

12. Synthesis