

## **World Humanities Seminar—Social Studies and Literature Ms. Mahepath and Ms. Grgas**

FRANKENSTEIN INFLUENCES THE WAY WE LEARN HISTORY.

We celebrate THREE milestones in the Humanities in 2018.

First, because of the Industrial Revolution, and the calls for social, economic and political reforms, the Representation of the People Act passed through Parliament in 1918. It gave voting rights to all men over the age of 21 and women over the age of 30. It was a landmark step on the road to equal representation and to the democratic freedom we enjoy today.

Second, in 1918 the First World War, the war to end all wars, came to an end as the Armistice was signed, bringing a silence to the battlefields.

And, lastly, we celebrate the 200 year anniversary of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. In 200 years, no work of literature has done more to shape the way people imagine science and its moral consequences. The complex dynamic between creation and responsibility of human dignity. *Frankenstein* influences the way we learn history.

### The Assignment:

Read and annotate the following pieces:

1. *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque (Chapter 9 excerpt)
2. "Call to Duty: Women and World War I" by Jennifer D. Keene

Then, come to class prepared to connect your unique findings in a three-day In the Box/Out of the Box (Wednesday, 1/10 and Thursday 1/11—for three periods total).

Finally, you will draft a two-three page piece reflecting on the contemporary anxieties- about science, social responsibility, hubris (you learned this in ninth grade-ancient Greece), family, alienation, and uncontrollable change.

- Think about the revision of a women's place in society with the passage of the Representation of the People's Act.
- Think about the war that was supposed to end all wars.
- Finally, think about the story itself, *Frankenstein*, a story steeped in history that remains endlessly modern, as we confront emerging technologies and scientific research. Imagine the motivations and ethical struggles of humans, and reflect on the benefits of innovation with its unforeseen consequences to human dignity.

REQUIREMENTS for the two page paper: you must have at least **one** quote in your paper from #1 or #2 and at least **three** quotes from any of the historical figures we have learned about thus far. Therefore, **four** quotes total.

Grading:

Socratic Seminar participation— 40 points

Two page Paper due Friday, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> —60 points

\*\*\*\*\*This is your Global MIDTERM.\*\*\*\*\*

As such, it will calculate for 20% of your Q2 grade in Social Studies.

For English, the In/Out will count as a participation grade, and the total grade from above will be averaged into your second quarter grade as an exam.