



COURSE DESCRIPTION

2016 Winter Session (2016-2017 Academic Year)

ENGL 100-002: Mad Science--An Introduction to Criticism
- Adam Frank

Reading and Writing about Literature

Term 1

MWF, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Focused on literary texts in their critical and theoretical contexts, ENGL 100 is a course in academic writing that fulfills the first-year component of the Faculty of Arts Writing Requirement.

This course offers an introduction to the skills of literary criticism. Our theme is mad science, a concept we explore by reading a handful of literary works, ancient, modern, and contemporary. Each of these works raises important questions about scientific knowledge and human culture. What are the relations between scientific knowledge and power? How should we understand scientific practice in relation to the emotions? What are the consequences, both for humankind and for nonhumans, of scientific invention? We will examine criticism itself as a science or form of technical knowledge.

Readings include: excerpts from Aristotle's *Poetics*; Aeschylus' *Prometheus Bound*; Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein; or the Modern Prometheus* (1818); R.L. Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1886); and Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go* (2005). We will explore each of these texts in their critical, historical, and theoretical contexts, reading secondary sources that will help us to understand these texts and that serve as examples of literary criticism.