LITERATURE

An Exploration of Illness and Wellness in Literature

I. CRITICAL READING 15%

A. Purpose and Main Idea
B. Structure
C. Restatement of Information
D. Genres and their Characteristics
E. Language and Tone
F. Grammar and Syntax
G. Vocabulary in Context
H. Diction

II. MARY SHELLEY’S FRANKENSTEIN (1818) 45%

A. Frankenstein and the Theme of “In Sickness and in Health”
B. Biographical Contexts for the Novel
C. The Birth of Frankenstein
D. Editions of the Novel
E. Volume and Chapter Summaries and Analyses
F. Scientific and Cultural Contexts for the Novel
   1. Materialist vs. Vitalist Debates
   2. Monsters
   3. Body Snatching and Grave Robbing
   4. Reanimation and Resuscitation
G. Settings
   1. The Arctic
   2. Geneva and Lake Geneva
   3. The French Alps and Mont Blanc
H. Literary Movements and Genres
   1. Romanticism
   2. The Gothic
I. Allusions
   1. Greek Mythology—Prometheus
   2. Milton’s Paradise Lost
J. Elements of Nature
K. The Sublime
L. Narrative Elements
   1. Frame Narratives
   2. Unreliable Narrator
   3. Epistolary Fiction
M. Contemporary and Current Critical Responses
   1. Contemporary Criticism
   2. Current Criticism
a. Health humanities criticism
b. Disability studies criticism
c. Feminist and gender studies criticism
d. Postcolonial criticism

N. *Frankenstein’s Onscreen Afterlife*

III. SHORTER SELECTIONS 40%

A. The Shorter Selections and the Theme of “In Sickness and in Health”

B. Nonfiction
   1. Autobiography and Illness Narratives
      2. **SELECTED WORK:** “ON BEING A CRIPPLE” (1986) BY NANCY MAIRS
         b. Analysis of “On Being A Cripple”
      3. **SELECTED WORK:** “PONY PARTY” AND “LUCK” FROM *AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A FACE* (1994) BY LUCY GREALY
         b. Analysis of “Pony Party”
         c. Analysis of “Luck”

C. Fiction: Short Story
   1. **SELECTED WORK:** “THE BIRTHMARK” (1843) BY NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE
      a. Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804–64): background and biography
      b. Analysis of “The Birthmark”

D. Poetry
   1. **SELECTED WORK:** “ODE TO A NIGHTINGALE” (1819) BY JOHN KEATS
      a. John Keats (1795–1821): background and biography
      b. Analysis of “Ode to a Nightingale”
   2. **SELECTED WORK:** “IN THE THEATRE” (1977) BY DANNIE ABSE
      b. Analysis of “In the Theatre”
   3. **SELECTED WORK:** “DEAR WORLD” (1988) BY PAULA GUNN ALLEN
      b. Analysis of “Dear World”
   4. **SELECTED WORK:** “WHAT THE DOCTOR SAID” (1989) BY RAYMOND CARVER
      a. Raymond Carver (1938–88): background and biography
      b. Analysis of “What the Doctor Said”
   5. **SELECTED WORK:** “THE SICK WIFE” (1996) BY JANE KENYON
      a. Jane Kenyon (1947–95): background and biography
      b. Analysis of “The Sick Wife”
   6. **SELECTED WORK:** “WHAT YOU MOURN” (2007) BY SHEILA BLACK
      a. Sheila Black (b. 1961): background and biography
      b. Analysis of “What You Mourn”
   7. **SELECTED WORK:** “HEALTH” (2010) BY RAFAEL CAMPO
      a. Rafael Campo (b. 1964): background and biography
      b. Analysis of “Health”