BRITAIN’S NINETEENTH CENTURY WOMEN AUTHORS
JANE AUSTEN’S PERSUASION & MARY SHELLEY’S FRANKENSTEIN
ANITA LEITNER - DIAMOND FACILITATOR

Enter the world of Jane Austen and Mary Shelley, two ladies who couldn’t be more different. Austen is the author of some of the world’s best-known love stories. Her wonderful novels are Sense and Sensibility, Pride and Prejudice, Mansfield Park, Emma, Northanger Abbey and Persuasion. Mary Shelley, on the other hand is sometimes, incorrectly, known as a one-book wonder. Frankenstein was her first, and most famous novel is the single best-known work of the Romantic Era in England. This class will focus on Jane Austen and Mary Shelley, an unlikely pairing, but still, two of the most interesting female authors in the early decades of the nineteenth-century. We begin with three weeks of the refined realism of Persuasion. Our last five weeks we will read Mary Shelley’s definitive Gothic tale, Frankenstein.


*Please note that the following text assignments should be read BEFORE the date of the class listed.

1/16 Persuasion – (Do not read the introduction) Read Pages XXXI-XXXII “Chronology”, Read XXXV-XXXVI “The Novels of Jane Austen”, Read Persuasion Volume I, Chapters I-IX (Page 5-75) - Facilitator Comments: Historic Background for Persuasion. Discussion.

1/23 Persuasion Chapter X (Volume I) – Chapter V (Volume II) (Pages 76-152) - Facilitator Comments: Jane Austen’s Second Chance Novel. Discussion, Research Reports.

1/30 Persuasion Chapter VI-End(Volume II) (Pages 153-End) - Facilitator Comments: Persuasion – The Last Word. Discussion, Research Reports.


2/13 Frankenstein – Read Chapter V-X, Pages 57 -102. Facilitator comments, Discussion, Research Reports.

2/20 Frankenstein – Read Chapter XI-XVI, Pages 102 -144. Facilitator comments, Discussion, Research Reports.

2/27 Frankenstein – Read Chapter XVII -XXI, Pages 144– 184. Facilitator comments, Discussion, Research Reports.