Department	13 General and Interdisciplinary Studies
Course title	**Frankenstein reloaded - science and technology in literature and film**
Hours per week (SWS)	2
Number of ECTS credits	2
Course objective	Upon successful completion students will have become acquainted with various representations of science and technology in literature and film in different genres and historical periods. As a result, they will have acquired a deeper understanding of their interdependence and mutual influence throughout time. Thus, they will be able to discuss today's ethical and moral implications of scientific advancement and digitalisation.
Prerequisites	
Recommended reading	
Teaching methods	This seminar will be held for 90 minutes every week. There will be time for lecture, student debate, group work, in-class reading, and film analysis.
Assessment methods	Students have to work cooperatively and individually on a chosen topic, present intermediate stages of their workflow, deliver one presentation in class, and write a seminar paper based on that same topic.
Language of instruction	English
Name of lecturer	Prof. Dr. Nicole Brandstetter
Email	nicole.brandstetter@hm.edu
Link	
Course content	More than 200 years after the first publication of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, we live in an era of digitalisation, automation, artificial intelligence, and genetic engineering. Our society is confronted with fundamental moral and ethical questions that scientific research and technological development raise: To which degree is scientific and technological advancement beneficial? Do new technologies simplify life or transform us to transparent citizens prone to manipulation? What are the chances and limits of genetic engineering? In which world do we want to live in the future? Literature and films have ever since mirrored societal issues. The "mad scientist" like Frankenstein is a classical illustration of an insane personality that plays God and exhausts uncritically every possibility of scientific research or technological development. Science fiction novels like 1984 show a dystopian view of a society that is brainwashed, controlled, and imprisoned due to technological advancement. Moreover, a film like Matrix critically questions genetic engineering and besides, has set standards with its filmic realisation. In this class we will analyse the various representations of science and technology in literature and films in different genres and historical periods. This includes literary and film analysis as well as discussions of societal issues that are implied.
Remarks	Material will be provided by the professor, credit earned through project presentation, active participation in discussion, and seminar paper. This is a Cultural Studies class (drawing from approaches in Literary Studies and Media Studies). Course materials are taken, among others, from books, newspapers, magazines, and journals. A literature list will be provided at the beginning of class.