

**U3A  
Dunedin Charitable Trust**

A LEARNING OPTION FOR THE RETIRED

in association with



Series 1 2012

**TWO NINETEENTH CENTURY  
SCIENCE-FICTION STORIES**

**Dates: Tuesday, 6 March to Tuesday, 10 April 2012**

**Time: 2.15 pm – 4.15 pm**

**Venue: Salmond College, Knox Street, North East Valley**

**Enrolments for this course will be limited to 25**

**Course Fee: \$40.00**

**Tea and Coffee provided**

**Course Organiser: Sue Harvey (471 0546)**

**Course Assistant: Bill Wilson (477 2282)**

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You may apply to enrol in more than one course. If you wish to do so, you must indicate your choice preferences on the application form, and include payment of the appropriate fee(s).

All applications must be received by noon on Wednesday, 8 February 2012, and you may expect to receive a response to your application on or about 17 February.

Any questions about these courses after 17 February should be referred to the Secretary, U3A Dunedin, telephone 471 9913 or on email at <graysinn@clear.net.nz>

***Please keep this brochure as a reminder of venue, dates, and times for the courses for which you apply.***

# **TWO NINETEENTH CENTURY SCIENCE - FICTION STORIES**

## ***Two Nineteenth-Century Science-Fiction Stories: Mary Shelley's Frankenstein and R. L. Stevenson's Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde***

These two stories give ample opportunity for discussion within a small group. For, in common with much science fiction, their interest lies not so much in the science as in the questions they raise about the nature of humankind, questions which remain equally meaningful for us today. The science is, of course, preposterous. And this raises a further question: how successful are the writers in persuading us to suspend our disbelief so that we can imaginatively enter the world they have created?

These two stories also have much in common with other kinds of literature. What, for instance, do they share with the fantasy worlds of Tolkien or the horror stories surrounding the Dracula myths? In the last session of this course the discussion will be opened up to include such questions. Finally, we should be asking ourselves: why are those kinds of stories so popular and why are there so many film and television versions today?

The course will be presented by Dr Jenny Laws.

### **The Programme**

- 6 March** Introduction to the course and to Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*
- 13 March** Discussion of *Frankenstein*
- 20 March** Further discussion of *Frankenstein*
- 27 March** Introduction to Stevenson's *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*
- 3 April** Discussion of *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*
- 10 April** Conclusion to the course: a comparison of these two books with others in similar genres.