

**Department:** English

**Course Name:** Myth and the Modern World

**Not currently offered**

**Course Description:**

This senior English elective, a discussion-based seminar, focuses on the ideas and teachings of Joseph Campbell to examine the different ways in which myth and ritual have accompanied humankind on our journey through the ages. We will also read two novels, both of which speak directly to these concerns. The ideas and discussions spawned from these materials, as well as other supplements, will serve to enable each student to create a “myth for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.” There are no formal tests in this class; grades are derived from three mid-length (5-7 pgs) papers, a final written project of no less than 10 pages, various brief (1-2 pgs) writings, and class participation.

**Content:**

The theories of Joseph Campbell and other scholars of mythology and folklore

**Skills:**

Recognize universality and archetypes  
Read, comprehend, and analyze poetry and prose  
Analyze author purpose  
Annotate text  
Make connections within and among literary works  
Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of the piece.  
Analyze/evaluate how the structure of a text contributes to its meaning as a whole.  
Demonstrate knowledge that reflects a variety of genres of major periods, cultures and eras of literature.  
Decode new vocabulary using contextual clues as well as other resources and methods  
Identify figurative language and literary terminology  
Analyze character development  
Construct paragraphs  
Write informally  
Write formally  
Proofread/Edit  
Respond to literature  
Write using sensory details  
Write using figurative language  
Cite research sources  
Write a thesis statement  
Write using transition words  
Use search engines  
Identify reliable sources  
Respond to prompts  
Utilize elements of essay writing  
Clarify, support, and defend an argument  
Analyze sources to determine their validity  
Write a literary analysis  
Write a clearly stated thesis statement with an arguable idea  
Paraphrase text  
Write a concise and developed outline for speech research  
Formulate specific purpose statements for speaking objectives

Apply critical thinking analysis in formulating specific topics for speaking opportunities.  
Recognize and avoid plagiarism  
Review grammar skills  
Respond appropriately to informal class discussion/question answer sessions  
Express an understanding and analysis of literature through oral presentations  
Develop oral presentation skills (posture, volume, pace, articulation, eye contact) for a variety of rhetorical modes  
Read orally with fluency and expression  
Use presentation technology  
Articulate and communicate complex ideas through discussion.  
Develop an understanding on non-verbal delivery skills  
Appreciate and understand cultural phenomena in literature and American life

**Text and Materials:**

Campbell, Joseph, The Power of Myth (Doubleday, 1988)  
Kesey, Ken, One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest (Penguin, 1962)  
Piercy, Marge, Woman on the Edge of Time (Ballantine, 1976)  
Various supplemental materials

**Methods of Instruction:**

Guided Seminar  
Film/Video  
Lecture

**Methods of Evaluation:**

Class Participation  
Ten ½ page writing assignments  
Three mid length papers (5-7 pages)  
One long paper (no less than 10 pages)