

ENGL 3363 Syllabus

MYTHOLOGY

Spring 2018 / Credit 3

Meeting Days/Times: Room EV 320-11:00-11:50 MWF
Instructor: Dr. William Fleming
Office: EV 457
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Office Hours: 9:00 am-10:50 am Monday-Wednesday-Friday & by appt.

Course Description

ENGL 3363, MYTHOLOGY, presents the study of mythology as it applies to a myriad of cultures throughout the world and throughout time continuum. Based on Joseph Campbell's vast knowledge of mythology as it exists in ancient and modern culture, he has set forth his theories and conclusions concerning the impact of mythology on the existence of humankind, which is presented in his book *The Hero With a Thousand Faces*.

Since its release in 1949, *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* has influenced millions of readers by combining the insights of modern psychology with Joseph Campbell's revolutionary understanding of comparative mythology. In these pages, Campbell outlines the Hero's Journey, a universal motif of adventure and transformation that runs through virtually all of the world's mythic traditions. He also explores the Cosmogonic Cycle, the mythic pattern of world creation and destruction. (New World Library)

Aims and Outcomes

Students will be exposed to the comprehensive thoughts and ideas of Joseph Campbell as well as those who revere his knowledge and philosophy. This course will include the stories of many characters who inhabit the mythologies of many cultures both large and small and the mysteries that surround their existence and histories. Using *The Voyage of the Hero*, by David Leeming (an admitted follower of Campbell), we will delve into the fascinating stories of the heroes and villains in world mythology.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of ENGL 3363 students will be able to

- apply the idea of Joseph Campbell's monomyth to many forms of literature
- continue their abilities to read analytically and think critically
- evaluate and critique others' writing logically and constructively,
- work in collaboration with peers
- use the MLA citation method for documenting basic, fundamental research tasks,

- demonstrate the conventions of Standard American English grammar and appropriate mechanics across various genres and writing situations.

Textbooks

Required Texts:

- (1) Joseph Campbell, *The Hero With a Thousand Faces*, new World Library (available from Amazon in Hardback (\$15.60) or paperback (\$5.95) [ISBN: ISBN-13: 978-1577315933; ISBN-10: 1577315936]. Also available on line for downloading: <https://archive.org/details/0691119244>
- (2) David Leeming, *The Voyage of the Hero*. Oxford University Press, 1998. (available from Amazon in paperback (\$19.35) [ISBN: ISBN-13: 978-0195119572; ISBN-10: 0195119576])

Recommended Texts:

- (3) A good collegiate dictionary, such as *Webster's College Dictionary* or *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for successful completion of this course. Even a moderate number of absences may seriously jeopardize your ability to learn the material and pass the course. Because much of our work will build on material previously completed and will include **team and group interaction**, you should make every effort to attend class and be on time. Students must be in the classroom for the entire time in order to receive full credit for attendance. Your attendance is expected and will be documented. Department policy is that up to three hours of absence will receive no penalty. This translates into three absences for the MWF class and two absences for the TuTh class (i.e., one full week for both). Plan this time carefully, because any absence beyond the three hours could result in a penalty in your end-of-semester grade.

Class activities and assignments (quizzes and exercises) **can be made up at the end of the semester**. Any missed quizzes, exercises, or in-class writing assignments will be made up during the last class period of the semester.

Should an emergency arise (such as a serious illness or death in the family) please report your absences through the Dean of Students. His office will assist you in gathering the required documentation and make sure that all your professors are made aware of the circumstances. The instructor will decide whether the documented circumstances qualify as an emergency or not.

If you are unable to attend a class, you must make sure that you are prepared for the session when you return. Much of what you need to know in order to be prepared will be on the calendar, but unanticipated events can occur during classes that may change the calendar. Contact a classmate to see what unanticipated assignments, discussions, etc., you might have missed; this will help ensure that you are not surprised when the class is doing something for which you are not prepared.

Grading Plan

Explanation of assignments

Formal essays. The bulk of your grade will come from your ability to create formal written papers. Some work will be done in class, but most of the written work will be done outside of class. Assignments will be based on class discussion and ideas.

Oral team presentation. It is likely that there will be an oral presentation done by each member of the class since the class is small. Sharing of ideas is a valuable learning experience. These oral presentation topics will be discussed in class and could be determined by the members of the class according to each student's interests.

Reading quizzes. Short reading quizzes may be given to help in understanding ideas presented in the texts.

Writing Journal. A journal of your readings and thoughts can be useful in writing assignments and for future reference. This exercise can also help in understanding other forms of literature, as well as information studied in your major and minor.

Classroom Policies

Cell phones and electronics

The use (including visible presence) of cell phones, text messagers, and all similar electronic devices is prohibited during class-time. And, of course, using such devices during testing is prohibited unless permission is granted by your professor.

Computer use (for computer classrooms)

Using the computer during class for other than class assignments will not be tolerated. If you access Facebook, Twitter, or any other site not affiliated with our coursework during class, you will be **asked to leave the classroom**, since it will be obvious that you do not care to attend to the class activities.

DO NOT check e-mail, surf, or engage in any activity with the computers while the instructor is lecturing or while you are working on an assignment. DO NOT use the computer for any activity other than that assigned. If you need to access the Internet or your email for the assignment, be sure you receive permission before accessing the sites.

The penalties for using electronic devices for other than course work during class are:

- an absence being registered for that day
- a zero being recorded for the current assignment

University Policies

Academic Honesty

English Department policy states that a paper or assignment, which evidence can support as plagiarized or in any manner not the result of a student's own intellectual endeavors, will receive zero points. **The second offense will result in failure of the course and possible university disciplinary action.** Submitting your own previously written work for a current assignment or submitting an assignment in more than one class without the

prior permission of the instructors is also considered academically dishonest. For information on plagiarism and other **Classroom Rules of Conduct**, see the following site: <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide>.

Americans with Disabilities Act

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination.

Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the **Office of Services for Students with Disabilities** (SSD) located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936.294.3512, TDD 936.294.3786, and email disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. **NOTE: No accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Services for Students with Disabilities.**

Religious Holy Days

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors in the Classroom

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process.

Instructor Evaluations

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

STATEMENTS BY INDIVIDUALS (YOU MAY HAVE HEARD OF!) CONCERNING
JOSEPH CAMPBELL'S

THE HERO WITH A THOUSAND FACES.

“I have returned to no other book more often since leaving college than this one, and every time I discover new insight into the human journey. Every generation will find in *Hero* wisdom for the ages.”

— Bill Moyers

“In the three decades since I discovered *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*, it has continued to fascinate and inspire me. Joseph Campbell peers through centuries and shows us that we are all connected by a basic need to hear stories and understand ourselves. As a book, it is wonderful to read; as illumination into the human condition, it is a revelation.”

— George Lucas

“Campbell’s words carry extraordinary weight, not only among scholars but among a wide range of other people who find his search down mythological pathways relevant to their lives today....The book for which he is most famous, *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* [is] a brilliant examination, through ancient hero myths, of man’s eternal struggle for identity.”

— *Time*

“In the long run, the most influential book of the twentieth century may turn out to be Joseph Campbell’s *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*.”

— Christopher Vogler

Schedule of Readings

	Joseph Campbell: <i>The Hero With a Thousand Faces</i>	David Leeming: <i>The Voyage of the Hero</i>
Week 1	Introduction	
Week 2	The Monomyth (1-40)	
Week 3	The Adventure of the Hero: Chapter 1: Departure	
Week 4	The Adventure of the Hero: Chapter 2: Initiation	
Week 5	The Adventure of the Hero: Chapter 3: Return	
Week 6	The Keys	
Week 7	The Cosmogonic Cycle: Chapter 1: Emanations	The Miraculous Conception and Birth and Hiding of the Child
Week 8	The Cosmogonic Cycle: Chapter 2: The Virgin Birth	Childhood, Initiation, and Divine Signs
Week 9	Spring Break	Preparation, Meditation, Withdrawal, and Refuals
Week 10	The Cosmogonic Cycle: Chapter 3: Transformations of the Hero	Trial and Quest
Week 11	The Cosmogonic Cycle: Chapter 4: Dissolutions	Death and the Scapegoat
Week 12	Epilogue: Myth and Society	The Descent to the Underworld
Week 13		Resurrection and Rebirth
Week 14		Ascension, Aptheosis, and Atonement
Week 15		