


# Myth and Culture

Grade Level: 12 Semester Elective: ½ Credit

**In this one-semester senior elective, students will study comparative mythology that encompasses Greek, European, African, Middle Eeastern, Asian, and New World traditions. Familiarity with the best of early literature fosters an understanding of the lifestyles and philosophies of the cultures that are the foundation of Western and Eastern thought. Through the study of diverse literature and informational texts, this course examines the role of archetypes, heroism, and applications of myth. A final project is required.**

## How is the course structured?

**Course Components**

- Intro to myth theory and background; intro to main contributors of myth theory (Joseph Campbell; Carl Jung, et al), Myth study by category - region, creation myth, hero's journey, archetypes, etc. Analysis of text based on variety of common evaluators - eg. cultural values. The second part of the class applies these foundations to modern mythology, with a focus on the American superhero.

**Course Grade Based On:**

- Participation in Discussion, Individual and Small Group Activities, Daily Writing and Note-Taking, Projects, Research, Writing Process

## What can I expect?

**Course Workload:**

- Reading; discussion; expression of appreciation and comprehension of the material. Numerous assignments per week with overarching end products. Reading load will vary week to week.Active participation in class is necessary for success. Homework is given throughout the unit, and can be partly done in class. All work is presented on weekly activity lists, in advance, and students are encouraged to manage their time productively in class and out.

**Homework Frequency:**

- 2-3 times per week typically

**Type of Homework:**

- Reading and Annotating, Journal Responses for Close Reading, Outlining, Drafting, and Revision of Writing

**Major Projects:**

- Hero's Journey project; Archetype Research and Identification task; Independent Reading and research; Totem Project; Values Task; Original Myth Task.

**Text Titles May Include:**

- A wide rage of myths from around the world, myth theory texts, print and online resources

**Additional Information:**

This course uses several college level readings, which will prove challenging. However, these readings are broken down into manageable chunks and scaffolded for different ability levels.