

RYERSON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
RESEARCH PAPER

Eng 201, **The Hero's Journey: Myth and Archetype**

Professor Karen Mulhallen
Winter-Spring 2007

Weighting: 30%

Due Date: The week of March 5, no later than 12 pm on Thursday, 8 March 2007.

Length: 6 pages (Approximately 1500 words). Longer papers will be accepted.

Instructions: Using a formal essay format, write a paper which includes a title, a title-page, documentation and bibliography. The bibliography must include at least four citations. Dictionaries, atlases, encyclopedias, and web-sites do not count toward this minimum number of sources. Any quotations from web-sites should include not only the address, but also the "hit date", as sites are subject to change. Please be sure you list your primary sources on your bibliography.

DUE DATE

The essay may be submitted anytime before 12 pm Thursday, 8 March 2007. Ordinarily I do not accept late papers, nor do I deduct marks for late papers. If you are having trouble making the due date, please come to see me before the essay is due.

TOPICS

(Select **one** only.)

1. The class handout " A Practical Guide to the Hero With A Thousand Faces by Joseph Campbell" uses film examples from more than a decade ago. Taking this "Practical Guide", recast it using contemporary film examples. You may choose one phase of the hero's journey to concentrate on, or you might elect to work through several of the twelve phases, as set out on this handout.

2. Choosing one passage of poetry from our Poetry Reading List and one passage from The Odyssey, or Sir Gawain and the Green Knight or Stoker's Dracula, or Conrad's Heart of Darkness, or James Dickey's Deliverance, show how the passage from the shorter poem illuminates the work of your selected author's text.

Provide a context for reading the selected passages.

3 Selecting one of the five longer works on your course outline, show how a work from another artistic discipline, such as film, architecture, music, sculpture, computer games, or painting, can enrich our reading of the text in question.

Be specific. Stay close to your primary text and your examples.

4. Consider the use of the uncanny in one of the longer works on this course. Be sure you present your definition of the uncanny and illustrate its possibilities from the text you have chosen.

5. Create your own topic, using one of the works on your course list. This topic will need my prior approval, and a note with your topic signed by me must be attached to your essay. Topics might include gender roles, the world of dreams and the unconscious, spirit guides, the perilous journey, the erotic, or the importance of setting to the narrative.

NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS FOR ESSAY WRITING

Analyze; do not just narrate. Remember that your goal is to prove your points not to retell the stories of the works which you are discussing.

Make sure that your essay has a strong thesis. (I'll be glad to check your thesis for you before you begin writing your paper if you wish.)

You may, of course, quote from the works, but, if you do, be sure that the quotations are genuinely relevant. You should also keep quotations short and integrate them into your prose correctly. A few short and well-chosen quotations can make a very valuable contribution to the effectiveness of your paper. It is important though that you use quotations only to support points and your own explanation of these points. You must not use them as substitutes for your own arguments.

You must acknowledge the information and ideas that you borrow from critics – and remember that “critic” includes the anonymous contributors to such publications as Coles Notes – through in-text citation and inclusion in your Works Cited list, even if you do not use a single one of the source author or authors' exact words.

If you have questions about your essay, please come and see me. If you are having difficulty with organizing your materials or if you feel you need feedback on the first draft of your essay, you should take advantage of the free services offered by The Writing Centre which is located just inside the library on the second floor of the south end of the Learning Resources Building.

Please Note

Grammatical correctness, organization, and clarity of presentation, argument and diction are part of the appraisal of your work.

Students wishing to receive outstanding grades must go beyond the material presented in the lectures for this course.