

Course: Introduction to Classical Mythology

Students: 25 students, 1st-year to seniors, midway through semester; introductory course

Lesson Title: Greek Heroes and Campbell's Monomyth

Lesson length: 2 class meetings (50 minutes each; apprx 1 hour of HW/night)

Lesson Objectives

- Knowledge:
 - Introduce stories of heroes: Perseus, Jason, and Theseus
 - Introduce Campbell's Hero Journey (monomyth) theory
- Critical thinking skills:
 - Identify patterns in ancient literature
 - Relate identified patterns to theory
- Interpretative skills
 - Identify other known characters that fit patterns
- Application Skills
 - Apply theory and pattern to develop new hero for modern audience

Lesson plan

Step 1: Assigned Homework

- Read excerpts from Apollodoros on the adventures of Jason, Theseus, and Perseus
- Students should outline each hero's story and note patterns between the stories.
- PDFs: THESEUS, HEROES

Step 2: Group discussion 1

- In small groups of 5, students compare their notes on the heroes and revise their outlines and points of consistency.
- Students also discuss any differentiation between the hero stories.
- Time: 15 minutes

Step 3: Class video

- Together, we watch the following short video on the Joseph Campbell's theory about the Hero's Journey and the monomyth
- Time: 10 minutes
- Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hhk4N9A0oCA>

Step 4: Group Discussion 2

- Back in small groups, students now use the Hero journey theory to re-categorize the Greek heroes and their similarities.
- Each group is given a handout (see attached HEROCHART) and asked to identify which elements of Campbell's pattern do our Greek heroes fulfill.
- Time: 25 minutes
- PDF: HEROCHART

Step 4: Assigned Homework

- Read the handout on Joseph Campbell's journey of the hero (JOURNEY).
- Go through the powerpoint on the ubiquity of the Hero's journey and appreciate the range of application of the theory (ARCHETYPE).
- Finally, students must complete the example chart by adding their own examples, not from mythology but from their own media experiences (MODERNHERO)
- PDFs: JOURNEY, ARCHETYPE, MODERNHERO

Step 5: Class discussion

- Students review and discuss their new examples as a class. Instructor leads discussion on the significance of these patterns.
- Then instructor leads a discussion on the cultural manifestation of the patterns.
 - How does each cultural take the various aspects and make them their own.
 - Focus first on the Greek heroes from previous day's reading.
- Time: 15 minutes

Step 6: Group Discussion 3

- In groups of 5, students are given a worksheet and asked to come up with their own hero using the characteristics and story variables from the Greek heroes and those covered in the assigned presentation and handouts.
- Completed worksheets are due at the end of class.
- Time: 35 minutes
- Word Doc: Designing a hero

PDFs provided by <http://mythologyteacher.com/Home.php>

An open resource for mythology education

Word Doc was personally created.