**Mythology and Folklore Final Exam Project – The Hero With a Thousand Faces**

**100 Points**

The Hero Cycle is the concept based on Joseph Campbell’s monomyth – the idea that there is one great story repeated in all heroic journey tales. Your project (in place of your final exam) is to develop a project that interprets how this monomyth is evident through a modern movie or novel series. The movie or novel you select must include at least 14 of the 17 stages we have gone over in class. You have three options for selecting a final project presentation style: write an essay, create a power point or prezi, or create a “movie review” video. Whichever project you choose must meet the specific criteria. You may not use the films *Star Wars: Episode IV A New Hope* or *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* because we discussed those in class. You must tell your teacher ahead of time which movie or novel you are choosing to do, and you may not choose the same thing a classmate is doing.

**Project Options and Criteria**

1. **Essay**

The Hero Cycle is evident in many pieces of literature and film. Compose an essay where you explain how the Hero Cycle is evident in a movie or novel you have read. Explain how the protagonist meets the criteria for the monomyth pattern. Then analyze and explain why you think the Hero Cycle is so widely used throughout film and literature.

Essay Outline:

1. Introduction Paragraph
2. Briefly discuss the hero cycle (address the prompt)
3. Where and/or how is it used in your text – briefly summarize your film or novel
4. Thesis statement (establish a clear subject and purpose)
5. Body Paragraphs 1-3
6. Provide specific examples connecting the different parts of the hero cycle to the text
7. Establish clear topic sentences for each paragraph
8. Identify and analyze specific examples of the hero cycle in the text
9. Make the “bigger connection” explaining why/how the hero cycle is so widely used in modern texts
10. Conclusion Paragraph
11. Summarize the argument of your essay in 1-2 sentences (revisit your thesis and your text)
12. Write a concluding statement about the hero cycle (give your reader something to think about)

Grading: Essays will be turned in to turnitin.com. Proper grammar and MLA citations (when necessary) will count for 10 points of the essay. Intro is worth 20 points, body paragraphs are worth 40 points (at least 14 of the 17 criteria are explained), and conclusion is worth 20 points. Verbal defense to the teach is worth 10 points.

**2. Power Point or Prezi**

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Slides: Slides should include the following:

1. Briefly summarize your movie or novel
2. Explain your analysis of how this movie/novel meets the criteria of the Hero Cycle
3. Break down in about 10 slides the specifics of the movie/novel that meet the criteria of the Hero Cycle
4. Explain why you think the Hero Cycle is used so wildly throughout film and literature

Grading: 15-20 slides (10 points); creativity, images, and readability (20 points); summary (10 points); at least 14 of the 17 criteria are explained (30 points); explanation of the cycle’s wide usage throughout time (20 points), verbal explanation to the teacher (10 points).

**3. Movie Review**

The Hero Cycle is evident in many pieces of literature and film. Compose an essay where you explain how the Hero Cycle is evident in a movie or novel you have read. Explain how the protagonist meets the criteria for the monomyth pattern. Then analyze and explain why you think the Hero Cycle is so widely used throughout film and literature.

1. Create a video where you analyze the prompt in a talk-show, movie-review, TV analyst style
2. Summarize your movie or novel
3. Analyze the prompt in relation to your movie/novel and in the why the cycle is so widely used throughout story telling
4. Give at least 14 specifics of how the novel/movie meets the criteria for the Hero Cycle
5. Be creative and entertaining

Grading: 5-10 minutes (10 points); summary of novel/movie (10 minutes); creativity, images, sound effects, and production effort (20 points); at least 14 of the 17 criteria are explained (30 points); explanation of the cycle’s wide usage throughout time (20 points), shown to the class (10 points).