

**RELG 491 Special Topics:**  **the Hero's Journey**

Fall 2014 (2558 BE)

TTh 12:15- 1:30

EHFA 247

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Office hours: M-W-F 10:00-12:00, T-Th 9:20-11:30

Final Exam: Thursday, December 11, 1:30 in our regular classroom.

### **Course Description**

This class considers *Adventure Time* in terms of Joseph Campbell's "monomyth" as presented in his classic book *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*. With reference to *Adventure Time* and the seventeen stages of the monomyth, the class will explore philosophical, religious, literary, ethical, cultural, and other perspectives through which people interpret and judge themselves, their culture/s, and their world. We will examine the applicability of Campbell's Hero's Journey paradigm to our lives and consider the appropriateness and limits of related humanistic concepts to inform us about ourselves and the world.

### **Course Objectives**

Using *Adventure Time* and Campbell's paradigm, students will gain knowledge of humanistic concepts from the past and present related to the following important issues.

1. Happiness, satisfaction, and dissatisfaction (Week 3)
2. Sex, love, and gender (Week 7)
3. Construction of self identity in time and space (Week 8)
4. Dreams (Week 10)
5. Death and dying (Week 11)
6. Personal and interpersonal transformation (Week 13)

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students will have:

1. Demonstrated knowledge of the philosophical, religious, literary, ethical, cultural and other humanistic concepts through which educated people interpret and judge themselves and their world
2. Demonstrated the ability to *recognize* varieties of humanistic thought and expression
3. Demonstrated the ability to *interpret* varieties of humanistic thought and expression
4. Demonstrated the ability to *evaluate* varieties of humanistic thought and expression
5. Demonstrated the knowledge and skills obtained through participation in experiential learning activities that are relevant to their academic programs and/or career goals [through the class project]
6. Evaluated the relationship between their academic experience (in this class and at CCU) and the world [see Week 14].

### **Required Text**

*The Hero with a Thousand Faces* by Joseph Campbell. Princeton University Press, 2004.  
[http://vymena.grimoar.cz/campbell-the\\_hero\\_with\\_a\\_thousand\\_faces.pdf](http://vymena.grimoar.cz/campbell-the_hero_with_a_thousand_faces.pdf)

**NOTE:** Audiobook recordings will be posted on Moodle. Other handouts may be provided.

### **Suggested Supplemental Texts** (optional but useful for discussion and projects)

*The Epic of Gilgamesh* available at <http://www.aina.org/books/eog/eog.pdf> or from Penguin Classics, ISBN-10: 014044100X.

*Thus Spake Zarathustra, A Book for All and None* by Friedrich Nietzsche available at <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1998> free audio files available at <https://librivox.org/thus-spake-zarathustra-by-friedrich-nietzsche/> or from Penguin Books, ISBN 0140047484.

*Zhuangzi* by Zhuangzi, available at <http://ctext.org/zhuangzi>

*The Enchiridion or Manual* by Epictetus (55-135 CE) available at [http://www.hermitary.com/solitude/epictetus\\_enchiridion.html](http://www.hermitary.com/solitude/epictetus_enchiridion.html), free audio files available at <https://librivox.org/the-enchiridion-by-epictetus-tr-elizabeth-carter/>

### **Class Project**

As the final project for the term, the class will create a website about *Adventure Time* and the Hero's Journey that will highlight humanistic concepts using the show. Students will work in teams, each of which will carry out a different part of the process. That is to say, some students can choose to write articles while others choose to edit or create an index. Ideally, this is based on the student's major and interest. Some of those writing might create fiction while others explain through nonfiction. Some will do art and others do web layout design. The class will seek forums to present the resulting work. These could be at conferences or at Coastal. The class will consider submitting the results as a book to the Athenaeum Press for publication consideration.

### **Grading**

1. There will be **two quizzes**. Each quiz is worth 20% of your final grade for the term. On the two quizzes, you will be asked to provide short-essay answers to ten questions. Some questions will be on the readings, others on the lectures.

2. Your **class participation** is worth 20% of the grade for the term. This is earned by participating in two tasks, each of which is worth 10% of the grade.

Task #1 is on **online Q&A blog** posted each week on Moodle. There will be 15 of these posted, corresponding to the fifteen weeks of classes. Each time you post to the blog, you will receive 1 point, which equals 1% credit. In this way, you may earn up to 10 points, 10%. That is to say, you may post up to 15 times but you can only receive a maximum of 10 points of credit. You must post before the expiration time and day of the blog, which will always be a Sunday night. Note: you're posting must be deemed "credit worthy" by the professor in order to earn a point for it.

Task #2 is one **short presentation** during the term. It may be done verbally or via another appropriate means. Note: "appropriateness" of both content and delivery is to be determined in consultation with the professor. In addition, all students are expected to regularly participate in classes throughout the term.

3. Completion of the final project is worth 40% of the grade for the term. For those writing papers, it should be **ten pages** in length (more is acceptable, less is not), double-spaced in 12-point type, in a font such as Times New Roman or Courier New. [*Remember: You may work in teams!*] Chicago or MLA styles are acceptable. If it is a non-fiction essay, you must use and fully cite at least two reputable academic sources. Web sources are not acceptable unless you can show they are academically sound, such as online peer-reviewed academic journal. That is to say, you may use any web source that furthers your paper, but you must also use at least two academic sources. If you prefer web research, consider using *jstor*, available through the library. Those involved in other aspects of the project must do the equivalent to this amount of work in terms of quantity and quality, and will be assessed accordingly.

We will spend several classes throughout the semester discussing, arranging, and working on this project together. Details will be made clear in class.

<i>Summary of grading:</i> Quiz 1	=	20%
Quiz 2	=	20%
Participation	=	20%
Final Project	=	40%

Based on this, students will earn a letter grade for the term according to the following system:

A = 91 - 100%	C = 71 - 77%
B+ = 88 - 90%	D+ = 68 - 70%
B = 81 - 87%	D = 61 - 67%
C+ = 78 - 80%	F = below 60%

**Attendance:**

Following the guidelines posted in the *CCU Student Handbook*, students who have absences for **25%** of the regularly scheduled class meetings will receive a final grade of “**F**” for the term.

Note: The following Schedule of Classes may be subject to change due to developments during the term and suggestions by students about what episodes we should watch, topics we should discuss, etc.

# DEPARTURE {SECTION 1 OF 3}

## Week 1 - Tuesday August 19 – Thursday August 21



Original Pilot



S1E01

Tuesday: **Introduction** to the topic, class project, and grading

Thursday: **The Monomyth** Read “Prologue: The Monomyth” Myth and Dreams section, pages 1 – 23 in *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*.  
The Labyrinth of Crete and the myth of the Minotaur

## Week 2 - Tuesday August 26 – Thursday August 29



S1E02



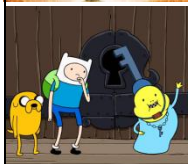
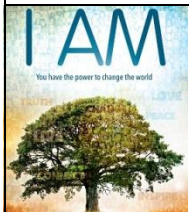
S1E10  
“Memories of Boom  
Boom Mountain”

Tuesday: **The Monomyth** (continued). Read pages 23 – 42 in *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*.  
Also look over (or read) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monomyth> .

Thursday: **The Call to Adventure, Departure**. Read pages 45-53 *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*.

Excerpt from: *The Power Of Myth*, “Episode 1: The Hero's Adventure”  
(also available at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SBbt\\_bIDeG0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SBbt_bIDeG0))

## Week 3 - Tuesday September 2 – Thursday September 4



S1E05  
“The Enchiridion!”

**Course Objectives theme: Happiness, satisfaction, and dissatisfaction**

Tuesday: **Refusal of the Call**. Read pages 54 – 63 in *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*.

Movie: *I AM*

Thursday: **Supernatural Aid**. Read pages 63 – 71 in *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*.

Also, discuss *I AM* in class. How is Tom Shadyac’s experience like the Monomyth, e.g., dissatisfaction with wealth like the Buddha?

## Week 4 - Tuesday September 9 – Thursday September 11



S1E03  
“Prisoners of Love”



Tuesday: **The Crossing of the First Threshold**. Read pages 71 – 82 in *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*.

Thursday: **Dr. Clifford Sosis** of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies will talk about the good life from a non-traditional perspective, focusing on his study of the philosophy and psychology of well-being.

Read **The Belly of the Whale** pages 83 – 88 in *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*.

**Week 5 - Tuesday September 16 – Thursday September 18**



S2E21  
"Belly of the Beast"

Tuesday: **Class projects** discussion and work

**Thursday, September 18 Quiz 1**

**INITIATION {SECTION 2 OF 3}**

**Week 6 - Tuesday September 23 – Thursday September 25**



S5E35 "Love Games"

Tuesday: **The Road of Trials.** Read pages 89 – 100 in *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*. (Trials of Glarb)



S3E23 "Incendium"

Thursday: **Professor Roger Johansen** of the Department of English will talk about initiation through rhythm.

**Week 7 - Tuesday September 30 – Thursday October 2**



S6E06 "Breezy"

**Course Objectives theme: Sex, love, and gender**

Tuesday: **Dr. Angela Fitzpatrick** of Women's and Gender Studies will introduce us to relevant themes about gender.

Read **The Meeting with the Goddess** pages 100 – 110 and **Woman as the Temptress** pages 111 – 116 and in *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*.



S6E02 "Escape from the Citadel"

Thursday: **Atonement with the Father.** Read pages 116 – 137 in *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*.

**Week 8 - Tuesday October 7 – Thursday October 9**



S3E9 "Fionna and Cake"

**Course Objectives theme: Construction of self identity in time and space**

Tuesday: **Apotheosis.** Read pages 138 – 158 in *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*.



S4E16 Burning Low

Thursday: **The Ultimate Boon.** Read pages 159 – 178 in *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*.

Adventure Time and Time

**Week 9 - Tuesday October 14 – Thursday October 16**



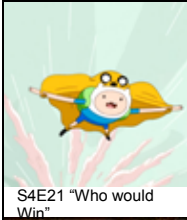
S3E10 "What was Missing"

Tuesday: **Class projects** discussion and work

**Thursday, October 16 Quiz 2**

**RETURN {SECTION 3 OF 3}**

**Week 10 - Tuesday October 21 – Thursday October 23**



S4E21 "Who would Win"

**Course Objectives theme: Dreams**

Tuesday: **Refusal to Return.** Read pages 179 – 182 in *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*. Dreaming and shamanic flight.



S3 E18 "The New Frontier"

Thursday: **The Magic Flight.** Read pages 182 – 192 in *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*.

NOVA: *What are Dreams?*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4yhtjm76WU>

**Week 11 - Tuesday October 28 – Thursday October 30**



S5E48 "Betty"

Tuesday: **Rescue from Without.** Read pages 192 – 201 in *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*.



S2E01

Thursday: **The Nightosphere,** Buddhist Hells, Jizo and the Kings of Hells.  
A handout will be provided.

**Week 12 - Tuesday November 4 (Student Holiday) – Thursday November 6**



S3E23 "Another Way"

Thursday: **The Crossing of the Return Threshold.** Read pages 201 – 212 in *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*.

**Week 13 - Tuesday November 11 – Thursday November 13**



S5E5 "All the Little People"

**Course Objectives theme: Personal and interpersonal transformation**

Tuesday: **Freedom to Live.** Read pages 212 – 220 in *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*.

Campbell's Monomyth stages & the Buddhist pilgrimage in Shikoku, Japan

Thursday: Movie *Dragon Ball Z: The Tree of Might*. Read pages 221 – 226 in *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*.

**Week 14 - Tuesday November 18 – Thursday November 20**



S4E26 "The Lich"

Tuesday: Evaluation of the relationship between this class and the world.

Thursday: **Class projects** discussion and work

Monday, November 24 through Friday, November 28, 2014

Thanksgiving Break

**Week 15 - December 2** Last day of class



Conclusion

Final Exam: Thursday, December 11, 1:30 in our regular classroom.

**LOOK AT THE ILLUSTRATION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE AND DETERMINE WHICH *ADVENTURE TIME* SCENARIOS FIT OR DEFY THE MODEL. A SIMILAR ILLUSTRATION MIGHT BE USED TO NAVIGATE THE FINAL PROJECT WEB SITE.**

# ADVENTURE TIME

## THE 17 STAGES OF JOSEPH CAMBELL'S MONOMYTH

