

Calendar

Important: this calendar is subject to changes, I will try my best to warn you at least 1 week ahead.

DATE	TO READ TO WATCH FOR THIS DAY	WRITING ASSIGNMENTS	IN CLASS WE WILL...
January 24	NONE	First class survey by 9pm	Talk about heroes, and the syllabus.
January 26	Read (after class): How to write a persuasive essay; watch: Writing Tools 1: Formatting Papers (<i>Writing Tools</i> on Blackboard)	Hand in diagnostic writing (IN CLASS WRITING)	Write a short persuasive essay on a question I will give you in class
January 29	Read online, in the Myth Reader: What is a Myth? (pages 3-13 in the PDF); Claude Levi-Strauss (pages 439 to 455 in the PDF); in the Penguin book (bookstore): <i>Prose Edda</i> , “Prologue” (pages 3 to 8 in the book)	Blog 1: Choose 1 What is the difference between a myth and a flow tale or a legend? What tradition does the <i>Prose Edda</i> belong to (gather some information on the author)? Due at midnight today Bibliographical Search: Go on JSTOR and find at least one scientific article on Nordic mythology, Levi-Strauss' work, or specifically the Prose Edda	Discuss the difference between myths and legends, and what type of sources we will actually tackle in this class. Briefly discuss what makes a great introduction

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January 31	Read: <i>The Prose Edda</i> , the Deluding from part 1 to part to part 19 (included, pages 9 to 30)	Week 2 Wiki Participation (only for those who volunteered on Monday)	Discuss Odin and the Trinity. Discuss thesis wording and conclusions.
February 2	Read: <i>The Prose Edda</i> from part 31 to 41 (included, pages 30 to 50)	Week 2 Wiki Participation (for volunteers of this week)	Discuss the figures of Loki, and his children
February 5	Read: the rest of the <i>Prose Edda</i> , <i>The Gylfaginning (the Delusion)</i> pages 50 to 79.	Reading Reaction 1: Pick a theme in your note and expand on it in the context of the class	Talk about the the shape shifter's role in culture, the transformations Thor's character has known, and how pop culture has seized Ragnarök.

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Feb. 7	Read the <i>Song of Rig</i> (pages 203-217 of the online source, under Rigstula on BBoard); Read the <i>Skaldskaparmal</i> in the <i>Prose Edda</i> , pages 80 to 94.	Wiki of the week for volunteers	Discuss the creation of classes in Norse society, and, again, Ragnarök.
Feb. 9	Finish reading <i>The Skaldskaparmal</i> , pages 95 to 108; Read <i>The Voluspa</i> (online on Blackboard)	Blog 2	Discuss why it is important that the gods most represented in this book are Odin, Thor and Loki.
Feb. 12	Read Joseph Campbell's reader in <i>A Myth Reader</i> (online in Theories of the Hero, pages 217 to 224 of the PDF) Start reading <i>The Knight of the Cart</i> (pages 207 to 225)	First essay outline The essay's prompt will be online. Give me a complete outline of what you will say in the essay: short summary of introduction, three parts and each subparts, conclusion synopsis, plus an indicative bibliography.	Talk about Camelot and its position in pop culture (see Jackie Kennedy's reference to it: "There will be other presidents, but there will never be another Camelot" in reference to her husband supposed-love of the shiny city)

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Feb. 14	Continue reading <i>The Knight of the Cart</i> (pages 225 to 250)	Blog 3+ Wiki for the volunteers	Discuss Lancelot's singular destiny, and his story. Why do you think Lancelot cannot be the one to find the Graal?
February 16	Read <i>The Knight of the Cart</i> (pages 251 to 294)		

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Feb. 17-20	Over break, watch <i>Black Panther</i> , Read the <i>Story of the Grail</i> (pages 381 to 414)	First draft of Analytical Paper 1 due on the 19 at midnight Note: Mandatory student-teacher conference to discuss paper (week February 20-27)	February Break
Feb. 21	Read <i>The Superhero Reader: Paint Them Black</i> Read <i>The Story of the Grail</i> (pages 415 to 440 (finish the last sentence of page 440, of course)	Blog 4	Discuss Black Panther, and its possible inspirations.
Feb. 23	Read <i>The Story of the Grail</i> (pages 441 to 466, stop at the end of the first paragraph—the one that ends with ‘My noble lord, I fear that this knight is dead, for he can no longer hear anything.’)	Peer review of Paper 1 Wiki for the volunteers.	Discuss Perceval and Gawain Discuss medieval court society (tournaments for example, and why Troyes included those details).

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Feb. 26	Finish the <i>Story of the Grail</i>	Final draft of Academic Paper 1 due (to complete go to Assignments>Academic papers>Paper 1 Final)	Discuss the ending of the story of Perceval.
Feb. 28	Read: <i>Equitan or Bisclarvet</i> from the <i>Lais</i> of Marie de France (online on Blackboard).	Reading Reaction 2 (Go to Assignments>Reading reactions>Reading reaction 2 to complete)	Discuss medieval lays and their educational values. What do you think of gender roles in <i>Equitan</i> ? How is the adulterous man represented?

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March 2	<p>Read Victor Turner <i>The Forest of Symbols</i> in <i>Contemporary Myths</i> (under Myth Reader in Blackboard);</p> <p>Read the article under <i>The Woman a Hero in Campbell</i>, in Feminist critics of Campbell on Blackboard.</p>	<p>Outline of your 2nd Analytical Paper (email by midnight)</p>	<p>Discuss these new view points on Campbell's work and the hero.</p>
March 5	<p>Read Letters to the English from Joan of Arc, and Trial transcripts (online, I will explain where to find them in class, and send an announcement on February 28);</p>	<p>Blog 5</p>	<p>Discuss heroes of history, and nationalism in representing them.</p>
March 7	<p>Watch <i>Professor Marston and the Wonder Women</i> (online on ereserves, warning, this movie contains quite a fair bit of nudity);</p> <p>Read <i>Rise of the Superhero</i>, the two pages on Codifying Comics, pages 48-49.</p>	<p>Wiki for volunteers</p>	<p>Discuss the notion of Goddess in the hero's journey, how Campbell can be corrected.</p>

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March 9	<p>Watch <i>Wonder Woman</i> online on ereserves and read the very first comic book of Wonder Woman by creator William Marston (pen-name Charles Moulton, see online link in the Superhero tab).</p> <p>Read <i>Rise of the Superhero</i>, pages 8 to 20.</p>	Reaction Paper 3	<p>Discuss how the previous articles criticizing Campbell might apply to <i>Wonder Woman</i>, and what is the difference between the Golden Age <i>Wonder Woman</i> and the 2017 film on its creators. We will also discuss how the genre of Pulp Fictions might have influenced/been influenced by comics.</p>
March 12	<p>Read <i>Bob Morane, The Dinosaur Hunters</i>, pages 7 to 19 (chapters 1 and 2),</p> <p>Read <i>Rise of the Superhero</i>, pages 24 to 47 (the parts on World War II and Nationalism, and science in comic books).</p>	Second paper draft due Sunday March 11 at midnight Peer-review paper 2 (complete by March 13)	<p>Discuss the genre of pulp fiction, and its relationship to comics such as <i>Wonder Woman</i>.</p>
March 14	<p>Read <i>The Dinosaur Hunters</i>, chapter 3 to 5; Watch <i>The Vampires</i>, episode 6 and one episode of <i>Perils of Pauline</i> (online under <i>Pulp Fiction</i>)</p>	Blog 6	<p>Discuss the theme of the damsel in distress versus the seductress, and stereotypes of masculinity</p>
March 16	<p>Read: <i>Judith Butler on Performativity and Gender</i>, under Gender Theory on Blackboard</p>	Wiki for volunteers	<p>Discuss the idea of gender and performance, and how that can be applied to superhero costumes, and heroes tropes.</p>

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March 19	Read <i>The Dinosaur Hunters</i> chapters 6 to 9;	Final draft of second analytical paper (final page count: 5-6 pages)	Discuss Bob Morane, and the tropes of pulp fictions.
March 21	Read: <i>The Dinosaur Hunters</i> , chapters 10 to 13	Blog 7	Discuss the influence of pulp fiction on our culture today (see Quentin Tarantino)
March 23	Read <i>The Dinosaur Hunters</i> , chapters 14 to 16.	Outline of third essay due at midnight Saturday March 17	Same as above: continue discussion on pulp fictions. In class, I will bring a couple of scenes from a classic on hypermasculinity, <i>Starship Troopers</i> , and we will analyze how they relate to <i>Dinosaur Hunters</i> and Bob Morane's figure.
March 26	Read <i>The Dinosaur Hunters</i> , chapter 18 to the end Watch: <i>Hidden Figures</i> (online). Facultative: Read <i>Hidden Figures</i> Light Up Screen <i>Black Women Who Helped America Win the Space Race</i> (on Blackboard).	First draft of essay 3 due at midnight	Discuss the position of black women in cinema (see Nichelle Nichols' position on Star Trek, and how it is linked with the women discussed in <i>Hidden Figures</i>), and the trope of the White Hero (pay attention to the scene in which Kevin Costner destroys the bathroom sign).

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March 28	Watch Buffy the Vampire Slayer episode 1, season 1; episode 12, season 5; episode Chosen in the last season. Read <i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Research as a Public Good</i> (On Blackboard).	Peer Review Essay 3	Discuss the place of reading in Buffy, and why it is so unique, discuss the idea of femininity described in the speeches Buffy makes, and talk about masculinity in Buffy (we will see a short scene from the episode <i>Teacher's Pet</i> , to compound that discussion) Student-teacher conference (mandatory)
March 30	Watch <i>Thor: Ragnarök</i> .	Wiki for the volunteers+ Blog 8 for everyone	Discuss the similarities between the movie
March 31- April 8	During the break: read one of the essays in <i>Hermione Granger Saves the World</i>	Essay 3 Final due April 9 at midnight	BREAK
April 9	Watch <i>Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows 1</i> ; Read: <i>Hermione as a Scholar</i> by Li Cornfeld (online on Blackboard in the <i>Heroes of Fantasy</i> tab)	Essay 3 Final due April 9 at midnight	During the classes on Harry Potter, we will discuss the similarities between Arthurian Romances and HP, and how HP works as a satire of school, as Buffy did.

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April 11	Watch <i>Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows 1</i> . Read <i>The Harry Potter Stories and French Arthurian Romance</i> (in Harry Potter under the Heroes of Fantasy Tab)	Outline of essay 4	Discuss the parallel between Harry Potter and the Arthurian Romances we read at the beginning of the semester.
April 13	Read <i>Silver Surfer: Parable by Moebius</i> , and <i>Ultimate Comics: Spider-man Volume 1</i> , first issue. <i>Read The Superhero Reader: Introduction</i> , pages XI to XVII (go to the end of that first paragraph that starts on page XVI, and which discusses the importance of <i>Watchmen</i>)	Blog 9 Wiki for volunteers of this week	With this class, we will start discussing the superhero, and how it is inserted in the mythologies we have studied.
April 16	Watch <i>The Dark Knight</i> ; Read <i>Rise of the Superhero</i> pages 50 to 59.	First draft of essay 4	Discuss the place of the trickster in Batman, and how it links to Loki's figure. Revise our definition of what a superhero is. In class we will see a couple of scene from Adam West' Batman, to see how different it is from the serious tone <i>The Dark Knight</i> strikes.

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April 18	Watch <i>Avengers</i> Read <i>Rise of the Superhero</i> , “Why So Serious?” Pages 62 to 71.	Wiki for volunteers	Discuss how Frank Miller’s Batman functions as a collection of myths in one place, Loki’s new figure in <i>Avengers</i> . Discuss how <i>Guardians of the Galaxy</i> has marked a new turning point for comics: is the time for ultra dark Batman-like comics over?
April 20	Read <i>Fighting the Battles We Never Could: "The Avengers" and Post-September 11 American Political Identities</i> Read <i>Rise of the Superhero</i> , “Era of Excess” from page 74 to 85.	Blog 10	In many ways, the gloom of the post 9/11 period was echoed in comics even before 9/11 happened: in class we will discuss the almost crash of comics in the 1990s, two the 9/11 period marked a turning point, and what 9/11 changed in comic books.
April 23	Read <i>The Great Comic Book Heroes</i> and <i>The Great Women Superheroes</i>	Final Draft Essay 4	Discuss the Bechdel test, and representations of femininity and masculinity in comic books—how do they relate to Campbell’s work or not?

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April 25	Read <i>Rise of the Superhero</i> , pages 85 to 94 (to the end) Read <i>Ms Marvel</i> , comic book.	Blog 11	Discuss women of color in comic books. We will take a particular interest in Storm, since her character corresponds particularly to the idea of the Goddess as a heroic power hinted at by Campbell, but only really developed by his critics. We will also discuss Ms Marvel, and ethnicity/race in comics (Sam Wilson as a Mexican-American rather than African-American character, substituting ethnicities in adaptation, and how we can talk about it—see “Hermione is white” story)
April 27	No Readings: Class Presentations	First draft creative writing 1	
April 30	No Readings: Class Presentations	Peer Review of creative writing 1	Listen to your classmates presentations

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May 2	No Readings: Class Presentations	Wiki for the volunteers	ask questions, be active in discussions.
May 4	No Readings: Class Presentations	Wiki for the volunteers	
May 7	No Readings: Class Presentations	Final Draft of Creative Writing 1	Listen to your classmates presentations ask questions, be active in discussions
May 9	Last Class: Watch <i>The Iroquois Creation Story</i>		TBA