Fall 8-15-2007

ENG 4850-001: The Heroic Journey into 'Other' Worlds

Jyoti Panjwani
Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall2007

Part of the English Language and Literature Commons

Recommended Citation
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall2007/135

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2007 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Fall 2007 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.
English 4850: The Heroic Journey into ‘Other’ Worlds
Fall 2007

Jyoti Panjwani
Office: Ch 3576 (316A)
Phone: 581-3615, e-mail: jpanjwani@eiu.edu
Office hrs: TR 4:00-5:00 p.m. and by appointment

Course Description:

This course will focus on various types of journeys represented in non-Western narratives from India and the Middle East. In his book *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*, the late eminent comparatist Joseph Campbell offers descriptions of a multitude of heroic figures who travel into cultural realms and spaces distant and, almost always, unknown. The movement of these heroic journeys is from ‘darkness’ to ‘action’ and finally to ‘light’ and the heroes encounter forces, external to and/or inherent in their ‘selves.’ Their travels and conflicts culminate in conquering or understanding that which empowers and ennobles them materially and spiritually. Through such writings as Somadeva’s *The King and the Corpse: The Tales of the Soul’s Conquest of Evil* (translated by Heinrich Zimmer and edited by Joseph Campbell), Vyasa’s *The Mahabharata* (translated by R.K. Narayan), Nawaal El-Saadawi’s *Woman at Point Zero*, and *The Tales from the Thousand and One Nights*, we will discuss the following questions: Who is a hero? What is the nature of the ‘unknown’ journey that the hero undertakes? What is the relationship between the ‘quest’ of the hero and the ‘conquest’ achieved through the journey? What are the conflicting external and internal forces that the individual journeyer encounters? What is the kind of knowledge and power/enrichment that the hero gains at the end of his/her journey? How and in what ways does the relationship between the hero and the world change as a result of his/her journey?

Course Requirements:

One class presentation on a single topic or work: 15%
One mid-term paper, 7-8 pages: 30%
One final paper, 8-10 pages: 40%
Active Preparation and Class Participation: 15%

Texts Required:

Joseph Campbell. *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*
N.J. Dawood (ed.) *Tales from the Thousand and One Nights*
Anita Desai. *Where Shall We Go This Summer?
Eknath Easwaran (Trans.). *The Bhagavadgita*
Hermann Hesse. *Siddhartha*
Nawaal El-Saadawi *Woman at Point Zero*
R.K. Narayan (Trans.). *The Mahabharata*
Voltaire. *Candide*
Heinrich Zimmer (Trans.) *The King and the Corpse*
Optional Reading Material:

Altaf Fatima. *The One Who Did Not Ask*
Wu Cheng-En. *Monkey*

Course Policies:

The course format will be informal lecture and exploratory discussion. Class participation, therefore, will be a significant component of this course. Your presence in the class is important for everyone, but especially for you. Each unexcused absence will bring your final grade down by 1\%. Three late appearances will equal one unexcused absence.

Papers are due at the beginning of the class on the day they are due. For each day that the paper is late, the letter grade will fall by one full grade; an ‘A’ essay due on Friday will be an ‘F’ by next Thursday.

Plagiarism Policy (English Department):

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism – “the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author and representation of them as one’s own original work” (Random House Dictionary of the English Language) – has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of E for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

Information for Students with Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Tentative Syllabus

**Week 1**

8/21 – Introduction to the Course
8/23 – Joseph Campbell: *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*, Prologue: The Monomyth,

**Week 2**

8/28 – Joseph Campbell: *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*, Part I – Chapter 1

**Week 3**

9/6 – Joseph Campbell: *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*, Part I – Chapter 4
Week 4

9/11 – R.K. Narayan: *The Mahabharata*

Week 5


Week 6

9/27 – Eknath Easwaran: *The Bhagavadgita*, Chapters 8-12

Week 7

10/4 – Continued, Mid-term Paper due

Week 8

10/9 – N.J. Dawood (ed.): *Tales From the Thousand and One Nights*, Prologue and “The Tale of the Hunchback”
10/11 – N.J. Dawood (ed.): *Tales From the Thousand and One Nights*, “Sindbad the Sailor and Sindbad the Porter”

Week 9

10/16 – N.J. Dawood (ed.): *Tales From the Thousand and One Nights*, “The Tale of Khalifah the Fisherman”, and Epilogue
10/18 – Anita Desai: *Where Shall We Go This Summer?*

Week 10

10/23 – Anita Desai: *Where Shall We Go This Summer?*
10/25 – Nawaal El-Saadawi: *Woman at Point Zero*

Week 11

10/30 – Nawaal El-Saadawi: *Woman at Point Zero*
11/1 – Herman Hesse: *Siddhartha*
Week 12

11/6- Hermann Hesse: Siddhartha
11/8- Voltaire: Candide

Week 13

11/13- Voltaire: Candide
11/15- Conferences (3:30-6:15 pm)

Week 14

11/27- Class Presentations
11/29- Class Presentations

Week 15

12/4- Class Presentations
12/6- Class Presentations, Final Paper due,