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ENG 5061-001: The Heroic Journey into 'Other' Worlds

Jyoti Panjwani
Eastern Illinois University

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English 5061: The Heroic Journey into 'Other' Worlds  
Spring 2004

Jyoti Panjwani  
Office: Ch 3576 (316A)  
Phone: 581-3615, e-mail: cfjp@eiu.edu  
Office hrs: TR 1:00-2:00 p.m. and by appointment

Course Description:

This course will focus on various types of journeys represented in non-western narratives from India, China, Japan, 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 'energy' 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), Matsuo Basho's The Narrow Road through the Provinces, Wu Cheng's The Monkey (translated by Arthur Waley), 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, 8-10 pages: 30%  
One final paper, 10-12 pages: 40%  
Active Preparation and Class Participation: 15%

Texts Required:

Matsuo Basho: The Narrow Road through the Provinces  
Joseph Campbell: The Hero with Thousand Faces  
Wu Cheng-en, Monkey  
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  
R.K. Narayan (Trans.) The Mahabharata  
Voltaire, Candide  
Heinrich Zimmer (Trans.) The King and the Corpse

Course Policies:

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 a 'F' by next Thursday.
**Plagiarism Policy** (English Department):

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism -- "The appropriation or imitation of the language, of 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 F 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 Co-ordinator of the office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

**Tentative Syllabus.**

**Week 1**

1/13- Introduction to the Course

**Week 2**


**Week 3**

1/27- Joseph Campbell: *The Hero with Thousand Faces*, Part I-Chapter 3 and 4, and Part II-Chapter 3

**Week 4**

2/3- R.K. Narayan: *The Mahabharata*

**Week 5**

2/10- Eknath Easwaran: *The Bhagavadgita*, chapters 1-12, 18

**Week 6**

2/17- Heinrich Zimmer: *The King and the Corpse*, pgs 202-235

**Week 7**

2/24- Matsuo Basho: *The Narrow Road through the Provinces*

**Week 8**


**Week 9**

3/9- Anita Desai's *Where Shall We Go This Summer*
**Week 10**


**Week 11**

3/30- Hermann Hesse: *Siddhartha*

**Week 12**

4/6- Voltaire: *Candide*

**Week 13**

4/13- Class-Presentations

**Week 14**

4/20- Class-Presentations

**Week 15**

4/27- Class-Presentations, Review