The Nature and Function of Myth

I. Definitions and terms:
   - myth
   - folktale
   - legend
   - saga
   - attributes and iconography

II. Approaches to the study of myth:
   a. Changing Greek views of their own mythological traditions:
      - allegorical-
      - Euhemeristic-
      - philosophical-

   b. Modern theories applied to understanding myth as cultural expression:
      1. Externalist- myth as a product of the social and natural environment
         - nature myths-
         - ritual-
         - charter-
         - etiological-

      2. Internalist- myth as a product of the human mind
         - Freud and myth-
         - Jung’s archetypes and the "collective unconscious"-
         - Levi-Strauss and structuralism-
         - Eliade, sacred time; Turner-rites of passage; Campbell, archetypes and rites of passage; hero's journey-
         - Feminist theory- explorations of the role of gender and goddess figures-

III. Some reasons why myth is studied:
   - historical-
   - anthropological -
   - etiological -
   - sociological -
   - psychological-