HRS 190/290: Topics in Humanities + Religious Studies
Spring 2009: The Hero

JR Donath
Office: MND 2011
Office Hours: Tuesdays: 1-2pm, 4-5pm and by appointment
Phone: 278.5895/278.6444 (leave message)
e-mail: donathjr@csus.edu

Catalog Description: Senior Seminar for Humanities and Religious Studies: focuses on the perspectives and methods discussed in the department's core courses. Topic chosen by instructor. Prerequisite: HRS 105 or HRS 108. HRS 140 recommended. 3 units.

Course Description: This semester's topic is the hero in a cross-cultural and historical perspective. The class will consider a variety of "texts," including relevant visual artifacts, literature, history, philosophy, music, religion and film. The course is organized as a modified seminar, emphasizing analysis of primary and secondary materials through student presentations and directed class discussions.

Learning Objectives: HRS 190 is designed to provide a culminating intellectual experience for majors in the department and thus incorporates the core learning goals of the program:
- Demonstration of analytical reading and effective oral communication skills
- Demonstration of baccalaureate-level writing skills
- Demonstration of techniques of formal analysis within an appropriate interdisciplinary context
- Demonstration of ability to identify and analyze changing perspectives on human experiences
- Demonstration of appreciation for diverse cultures and cultivation of an attitude of respect and tolerance for cultures other than one's own
- Demonstration of baccalaureate-level critical reasoning skills

Requirements/Assignments/Grading:
- Each student will write one short (3-4 page) response paper and one longer (10-15 page) research paper. Additionally, there will be a mid-term exam. HRS 290 students will write longer responses to the assignments (short paper 6-8 pages and long paper 20-30 pages) and will be evaluated in terms of graduate expectations.
- Especially due to the modified seminar format, active participation in class is expected. All reading assignments are to be completed before the class meeting.

Each week, students must send a discussion question to the instructor by e-mail no later than midnight of the Monday before the class meeting.

- Course grade scale:
  - Class participation: 200 points
  - Short paper: 100 points
  - Abstract/bibliography: 100 points
  - Midterm exam: 100 points
  - Final paper: 200 points
  - Paper exchange: 50 points
  - 750 points

Course materials:
- Campbell. Hero with a Thousand Faces
- Knowles. Our Gods Wear Spandex
- Autobiography of student's choice
- Romance novel of student's choice
- Text (literary, visual or musical) of student's choice for research paper
- Excerpts from various texts collected into a course reader---available from University Copy: 446 Howe Avenue (behind Tokyo Fro's) 929.6147
CALENDAR

January 27/Introduction. Why study heroes?

February 3/Monomyth/The Journey
Read: Campbell: Hero With 1000 Faces: pp 3-46
Begin your choice of autobiography

February 10/Departure
Read: Campbell: Hero With 1000 Faces: pp. 49-96
Your choice of autobiography

February 17/Initiation
Read: Campbell: Hero With 1000 Faces: pp. 97-192
Your choice of autobiography

February 24/Return
Read: Campbell: Hero With 1000 Faces: pp. 193-246
Finish autobiography

March 3/The Hero in History and The Great Man Theory
Read: Carlyle: “The Hero as Divinity” (reader)
Hook: “The Eventful Man and the Event-Making Man” (reader)
Recommended: Carlyle: “Summary” (reader)

**short paper due**

March 10/Can Women be Heroes?
Read: Pearson: “The Female Hero” (reader)
Izod: “The Quest of a Female Hero: The Silence of the Lambs” (reader)
romance novel of your choice (bring to seminar meeting)

March 17/Heroic Psychology
Read: Pearson: “Introduction: Making a Difference: The Heroic Journey” (reader)
Pearson: “Showing Generosity: The Altruist” (reader)

March 24/Movie Break
Read: Knowles: Our Gods Wear Spandex: pp. 1-62

** Mid-term exam due**

March 31/NO CLASS MEETING---SPRING BREAK

April 7/The Artist as Hero
Read: Whitman: “Preface to Leaves of Grass” and “Song of Myself” (reader)

***Abstract/bibliography due***

April 18/Modern Heroes
Read: Knowles: Our Gods Wear Spandex: pp. 103-222
Rollin: “The Lone Ranger and Lenny Skutnik. . .” (reader)

April 25/Heroes in Popular Culture
Engle: “What Makes Superman So Darned American?” (reader)

*** bring 2 copies of your research paper to class for exchange***

May 5/The Cowboy Hero
Read: Davis: “Ten-Gallon Hero” (reader)

May 12/ ***return exchanged papers with comments***

May 19/ ***research paper due*** in MND 2011 by 5:30 pm