

Ancient Legacies

Kristina Gibby

HONR 2000 SECTION 1: Heros and Monsters in World Literature, TR 10-11:15 am

The hero's journey is a common theme in world literature dating back to the earliest written works. From the *Epic of Gilgamesh* and the *Odyssey* to *Star Wars* and *Harry Potter*, this theme has captivated humanity on a global scale. What makes this theme so appealing across time and space? How do we relate to heroes and how do their quests illuminate our own life "journey"? These heroes are often foiled by monsters and other villains. What makes these antagonists effective opponents? What must the hero do/become to defeat them? Is there a cost? Is the hero so different from the monster? How do women appear in these texts? How do heroines compare to their male counterparts? What makes a woman "monstrous" in these ancient societies? We will consider these questions and more as we explore cultures and literatures from around the world, from ancient Mesopotamia to classical Japan to Renaissance Spain through the lens of heroes and monsters.

Daniel Horns

HONR 2000 SECTION 3: THE LEGACY OF MOUNT VESUVIUS

Mount Vesuvius, in what is now Italy, produced a catastrophic eruption in the year 79 AD. The eruption buried several Roman towns, most famously Pompeii and Herculaneum. While the eruption killed thousands of people and was clearly a major disaster, it also preserved buildings, artworks, food, jewelry, and even people and animals in a way that provides a unique glimpse into a 2,000-year-old culture. In this class we will learn some of the science of volcanoes and why that eruption was so explosive, and we will explore many of the elements of Roman culture that have been revealed by excavating the remains of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

Richard McDonald

HONR 2000 SECTION 4 and 5: CLASSICS

Description: The books we will be reading are more than "Classics"; the people who wrote "the Classics" read and often revered the works you will be studying. These texts have had a broad impact on literature and thought in the western world. There are many works which are their equal in artistry, but these works constitute some of the best literature that the western world has ever created. They were enjoyed and respected by their contemporary audiences and their effects are often just as strong today.

Every work we are reading will be a translation of a great work from another (often ancient) culture. Changes from one language to another and one culture to another sometimes require greater concentration on our part, but you will find that most of what these works have to say is timeless and easily applicable to segments of our world today.

When you complete this class you will be that much more an educated individual. You will have participated in a reading process that began by at least 19 B.C.E. and which has

been observed through the Renaissance and quite obviously up until today. This should make us proud. The world changes and what is important sometimes does as well, but the issues important to the contemporary audiences of these works are not that far removed from our own interests: War, love, inhumanity, suffering, faith, honor, compassion, fairness, power, damnation, redemption, and salvation.

We will be reading a significant amount for each class, and class discussion and thought are a very important aspect of this course.

Brendan McCarthy

HONR 2000 SECTION X01: Sports and History (online and asynchronous)

Description: This section of Ancient Legacies will investigate the role of sports in societies throughout history and the way scholars use modern sports to better understand the past. We will focus on art and literature, modern and ancient, as we explore major issues like creating communities through competition, using competition to establish social hierarchies, and the physical effects of life on the human body.

As we work through the class, you will create a digital project working as a group. Much of your work in this class will be building up that project.