



Movies, Myths and Me: How Heroes, Gladiators, and Gods Have Shaped Our World

20 Week elective for high school students

What do Star Wars and the Odyssey have in common? What about Josh Allen and the Roman Gladiators? In this course, students will study stories and films, primarily centering around themes from Classical mythology and history, to gain an understanding of the tropes, themes, characters, and allusions we see in today's Western world. Beginning with a discussion of storytelling and Joseph Campbell's concept of "The Hero's Journey," students will discover and apply universal themes from ancient and modern myths to their lives today. Topics in mythology will include the Trojan Cycle, major gods and goddesses, and heroes including Perseus, Jason, and Hercules. Students will thoughtfully compare modes of entertainment and escapism from the ancient world to today. Topics will include gladiatorial fights of the Colosseum, races in the Circus Maximus, and stage performance.

Units and Topics

Unit 1: Homer and Story Telling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homer: Man or Myth? • The Iliad and The Trojan War • Achilles and Odysseus • Movies: Troy, The Return, Oh Brother Where Art Thou?
Unit 2: Hercules and Heroes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gods, Goddesses, & Demigods: Drama on Mount Olympus! • Heroes: Perseus, Jason, Hercules • Mythical Monsters • Movies: Hercules, Clash of the Titans
Unit 3: Gladiators and Spectacular Entertainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Violence, Entertainment and Legacy of the Colosseum • Football, Nascar, and other heroes in sport and play • Staged Performances Then and Now: Origins of Wicked, Hamilton, and all your favorites • Movies: Gladiator, Spartacus, Ben Hur
PLUS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constellations & Mythology • Percy Jackson • Harry Potter • The Hunger Games • And more!

