

Extra Credit Opportunity Mythology

Having just finished this expansive mythology unit, you may not be in the mood for more, but if you know you'll need some extra credit, here is one way you might get some:

For many of you, your only previous experience with mythology is Disney's animated musical *Hercules* (1997). Fun though it may be, the movie takes many liberties with the original myth (and with many other aspects of mythology as well). See this web site for a list of discrepancies: <http://www.maicar.com/GML/DisneyHercules.html>

Well, Disney isn't the only movie company to stray from the original myths, and if you have got time (maybe over the holiday break?) to watch a movie and make some comparisons, this may be an extra credit opportunity you'll want to take advantage of.

Step 1: Each of the following movies is supposedly "based on" or "inspired by" a Greek myth. Choose one (1) to watch. Most of them are available at local movie rental stores and/or online movie rental outlets. (Beware: Some of the movies are rated PG-13, and one, *Troy*, is rated R. Even the ones that were on TV might be violent or suggestive, so choose wisely based on your own values.)

Jason and the Argonauts (1963 and/or 2000) – The Quest for the Golden Fleece
Clash of the Titans (1981 and/or 2010) – Perseus
O Brother, Where Art Thou? (2000) – The Odyssey
Jason and the Argonauts (TV Miniseries 2000) – The Quest for the Golden Fleece
Helen of Troy (TV Miniseries 2003) – The Iliad (The Trojan War)
Troy (2004) – The Iliad (The Trojan War)
Hercules (TV Miniseries 2005, not the Disney cartoon!)

Step 2: Read the original myth on which the movie is based in a legitimate source like Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* or one of the Internet sites we used when doing our research projects.

Step 3: Write an essay (in the standard academic essay format, of course) in which you **compare and contrast the movie to the original myth**. Discuss and explain all your main points thoroughly. Make sure you have a clear thesis (in your introductory paragraph) before you begin.