

Extra Credit Opportunity Mythology

If your only previous experience with mythology is Disney's animated musical *Hercules* (1997), you are in for a surprise. 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.

1) Each of the following movies is supposedly "based on" or "inspired by" a Greek myth. Watch one of them. Most are available at online movie outlets and/or on DVD. (Beware: Some of these movies are rated PG-13 or R. Even the ones that were made for TV might be violent or suggestive.)

Hercules (2014: live-action movie, not Disney's version!)
Wrath of the Titans (2012) – Perseus
Immortals (2011) – Theseus / Titans
Clash of the Titans (1981 and/or 2010) – Perseus
Hercules (TV Miniseries 2005, not the Disney cartoon!)
Troy (2004) – *The Iliad* (The Trojan War)
Helen of Troy (TV Miniseries 2003) – *The Iliad* (The Trojan War)
O Brother, Where Art Thou? (2000) – *The Odyssey*
Jason and the Argonauts (TV Miniseries 2000) – The Quest for the Golden Fleece
Jason and the Argonauts (1963) – The Quest for the Golden Fleece
Other classical-mythology-based movies as approved by teacher ahead of time

2) Read the original myth in Edith Hamilton's *Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes*. (I have a few copies to check out. They'll go fast.)

3) Write an academic essay in which you **compare (and contrast) the movie to the original myth**. Use quotations from the movie and the myth as evidence to illustrate your claims, and elaborate on the evidence as necessary to support your thesis, and address any potential counterclaims.

4) Submit your essay to Utah Compose for a score. (Submit it under the topic called "Extra Credit: Myth/Movie Comparison.") Revise as needed. (The only people who would not need to revise at all are those who achieve a score of 30 on the first submission; otherwise, improvements can and should be made.) The amount of extra credit you receive will be based on the substance of your argument (as judged by the teacher) and the quality of your writing (as judged by Utah Compose). Sloppy, last-minute, or careless essays will not be awarded extra credit.

5) Once your essay has achieved an acceptable score, e-mail me to let me know it is finished. I will look it up on Utah Compose. (You do not need to print anything.)