

Class (Digital) Film Festival + Individual Reflection

Mythology has served as the subject and/or inspiration for numerous works of film and television. To begin considering the power of myth and its adaptation further, we will work together, as a class, to organize and present a (digital) film festival. (*Because of COVID-19, we will need to take our festival online, which means deciding whether to either use Netflix Party and/or Amazon Watch Party for a synchronous experience or to instead host a video discussion, asking attendees to view films on their own before gathering.*)

In class we will discuss film analysis, practice on some examples, develop goals for our event, and assign tasks. We will also have a course Slack for use in communication, brainstorming, and planning.

The skeleton of the event is as follows:

We will (digitally) screen three films or episodes of TV on three evenings across three separate weeks in November (see schedule below). Working together, you will select the films and/or episodes, create marketing materials for the festival, craft discussion questions for each of the three screenings, and develop plans for introducing and/or facilitating discussion of the films using either the chat features of Netflix Party (or similar) or by hosting a discussion via Zoom (or similar). The primary goal is familiarize yourself with a film adaptation of a myth or mythological tradition. You will then share your insights about that work with festival attendees, helping them to see what you see in the film and to understand what is meaningful, interesting, and important in the work you are sharing.

You may find it helpful to start by determining which films and/or TV episodes you wish to include in your festival. Then you might consider dividing the remaining work up so that smaller groups are each responsible for one of the films and discussions—ensuring that every group member is able to contribute their strengths to the success of the overall event.

Individual Reflection:

In addition to assisting with the planning and realization of the event itself, you will also write and submit an individual reflection on your contribution and your experience. Your reflection should be **polished, 700–1000 words, and double spaced**, and should indicate:

- What you contributed to the event;
- Why your group selected the film(s) it did;

YOUR OBJECTIVES:

- DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF BASIC FILM ANALYSIS AND TERMINOLOGY;
- COLLABORATE WITH CLASSMATES TO ORGANIZE AND REALIZE AN EVENT;
- CONSIDER HOW THE HUMANITIES CONTRIBUTE TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES;
- DEVELOP OUTREACH, COMMUNICATION, ANALYSIS, AND PARTNERSHIP COMPETENCIES;
- CONSIDER WHAT AN ADAPTATION IS;
- ANALYZE A WORK OF FILM IN THE CONTEXT OF COURSE MATERIAL;
- COMMUNICATE INSIGHTS ABOUT A TEXT IN AN ACCESSIBLE AND ENGAGING WAY TO A BROAD AUDIENCE; AND
- HAVE FUN!

- What you hope attendees will gain from considering and discussing your film(s);
- Anything you are concerned might not “translate” (risks you/your group took, etc.); and
- What you learned about mythology, adaptation, and/or film and TV from the experience.

You will be graded on:

- Evidence of contribution to the planning and realization of the event;
- Preparedness for and professionalism in discussion;
- Thoughtful consideration of the film(s) selected;
- Demonstration of knowledge about film and mythology;
- Effective communication with and engagement of a broad audience; and
- Submission of a polished individual reflection.

(Note: we will be flexible—especially because of the complications created by the COVID—and may scale down or adjust plans as becomes necessary and/or evident during planning. You might also consider adding experience with event planning and marketing to your resumes after the festival!)

Dates and Deadlines

Film Selections	Due September 17th
Event Plan Rough Draft	Due October 1st
Marketing Materials & Event Plan Final Draft	Due October 29th
Screening Dates	November 12th, 19th, and 24th
Reflection Due	December 1st by 11:59 PM (Eastern) via Bb