Reception of Ancient Myth Project

Due date: 3 May, 2018

Length: *minimum* 8 pages (double-spaced, maximum 12 pt. font)

Explanation:

Western societies have appropriated myths and legends from Greek and Roman antiquity in a variety of ways. Once you begin looking for them, these allusions begin to pop up everywhere. The aim of this project is to (a) identify these myths in everyday life; (b) relate the advertisement to a specific (possible) ancient version of the story; and (c) to critically evaluate why this element from classical myth was chosen.

Instructions:

Provide five entries (about 1 ½ to 2 pages each) on modern[1] references to Classical myths / characters.

For each example, include (using these headings):

Section 1: Description of modern reference and context

- Provide a general description of your selected modern reference. Tell me about where / how you found the reference and a little bit about the context, so that I can get a picture of your source (if it's a visual image and you'd like to include it in the journal, that would be helpful – although the image will not count towards page length).

Section 2: A description of the Classical myth / character that is referenced

- Show me that you understand the ancient myth, *especially the parts important for the modern example that you're analyzing*. Citations of ancient sources would be especially helpful, since then I know what ancient story versions you're using as a comparison. The textbook can help to identify ancient sources, as can the **Theoi** and **Perseus** websites listed under "Additional Learning Resources" in the course syllabus.

Section 3: An analysis of why the Classical Myth is used in the modern example

- Here is the analysis portion of the assignment. Tell me why the artist/author/screenwriter, etc. might have chosen to use the Classical source. Questions to ask yourself might include:
  - how does it enrich the story?
  - how does it help to sell more products/attract the consumer's attention?
  - who is the work meant to appeal to? (cont. on next page)

---

[1]This term is flexible: if you find something interesting from 500 years ago, feel free to use it.

- Other possible questions are:
  - what knowledge of ancient myth does the producer expect from the audience?
  - Does the story/advertisement, etc. work if the same if the audience were more familiar with the myth?
- If you can find some information about precisely why the myth was used, that would be interesting too.

Possible Sources (Examples):

- Music
- Advertisements
- Product names
- Television / Movies
- Visual Arts
- Performing Arts
- Literature (including comics, etc.)

Primary Grading Criteria:

Presentation (clarity and accuracy of writing)

- Ensure that your writing is clear and without typos, formatting errors, etc.

Diversity of sources

- Do not choose only one or two works or types of works for your journal entries; live on the edge and mix it up a bit. Are they taken from website lists on the subject?

Accuracy of information

- (Particularly important for Section 2) Ensure that what you're saying is an actual version of the myth according to at least one ancient author. Your textbook can help with that, as can library references, internet sources, etc. If you use sources (and I strongly encourage it) please provide citations.[2]

Depth of analysis

- (Section 3) Here you will be assessed on the level to which you analyze the reason(s) for the myth's importance in the modern example. For example, saying (only) that someone used the hero Odysseus in a modern story because he's clever does not tell me much. WHY is his cleverness important in the story and how does a modern audience respond to him?

Finally, if you have any other questions about this assignment, please don't hesitate to ask (and the sooner the better!).

---

[2]Citations can be in any style you'd like (APA, Chicago, etc.), provided that you are consistent with your use of the chosen style *and* your citation will get me to the page(s) to which you refer (i.e. providing only the author and the year of publication, common in scientific citations, does not help me much).