

What Makes a Hero?

English 101: 10J

Instructor: Irene Middleton

Email: imiddle@learnlink.emory.edu

Mailbox in English Department, Humanities Building

Fall 2005

T/Th 10-11:15 am

Green Room in Tarbutton Hall

Office hours: Thursday 11:30 am - 3:30 pm in my office, Humanities Building 205, and by appointment (requested 24 hours in advance) on Tuesday morning.

Content and Goals:

In this course, we will investigate and debate heroism by writing on and discussing questions such as: What makes a hero? Who is defined as a hero? What must an ordinary person do to be redefined as a hero? Is heroism gendered? What is the difference between celebrity and heroism? Is heroism culture-bound, changing over time and location, or are there universally heroic traits? We will examine a wide range of materials, from epics to comic books, *Buffy* to *The West Wing*. This range will allow you experience writing on a variety of media while providing in-depth work on grammar, usage, and style. This course is not designed as a comprehensive overview of heroism across time and space, but instead a sampling of a few key texts and ideas. I have divided the course into four key themes: Current Uses of "Hero," Hero and Mythology, Female Heroism, Superheroism, and Passive Heroism.

Students will improve their writing through prewriting, writing, and rewriting, focusing on grammar, structure, and analysis. You will also practice finding and correctly citing sources by using some of the library's electronic research tools, writing annotated bibliographies, and incorporating outside information and arguments in your papers. We will also increase your comfort-level with public speaking in classroom discussion and an oral report. Our classroom should be a place for respectful, civil, and passionate discussion of ideas and opinions.

Required Texts:

Four texts are available at the bookstore and are required. You may buy them used, but make sure the editions are correct and that you have the books well before we are reading them for class.

--*The Elements of Style* by Strunk and White, 4th edition. ISBN: 020530902X

--*Maus* by Art Spiegelman. There are several editions of this book, so make sure you have the complete edition, with part I: *My Father Bleeds History* and part II: *And Here My Troubles Began*. You can buy the two parts separately or in a boxed set with this ISBN: 0679748407.

--*Howl's Moving Castle* by Diana Wynne Jones. ISBN: 006441034X

--*MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th edition. ISBN: 0873529863 You will be expected to use MLA formatting for all papers, so will need this as a reference.

You will also be responsible for purchasing on your own three comic books (in a series) or one graphic novel of your choice that includes superhero character or characters.

Other Materials:

All other readings are available through the library's electronic reserve system, found at <https://ereserves.library.emory.edu/reserves/>. These should be read and a printed copy brought to class with you on the day(s) assigned. They include: essays by Lord Raglan and Dean A. Miller, excerpts from two versions of Arthurian legends, and other essays as time allows. You will also be asked occasionally to find and bring to class articles or examples for discussion. We will also watch episodes of *The West Wing* and *Buffy, the Vampire Slayer* and the movie *X-Men*, based on the Marvel comic.

Assignments:

Conference postings: These postings to our Learnlink conference are due at midnight Sunday night, beginning September 11. Each posting consists of approximately 250 words that show your thoughts on the readings for Tuesday's class or the previous week's discussion, in response to a prompt posted by your instructor. These are not as formal as a paper and you should feel free to experiment with ideas or directions that intrigue you; however, you are expected to observe rules of grammar, style, and propriety.

Annotated Bibliographies: You have two annotated bibliographies during the semester, one of which will be on the same topic as your final research paper. Each includes at least 5 sources, due Oct. 6 and Nov. 22.

Papers: All papers should be submitted stapled in 12-point Times New Roman font with 1 inch margins and will not be accepted via email. They must follow all points of MLA formatting as found in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. You will be responsible for bringing completed rough drafts to class for workshops, so make sure you think ahead about your writing.

--3 page paper on 9/11 use of "hero" or celebrity vs. heroism due Sept. 22

--In-class writing on applying Raglan or Miller's article on Oct. 6

--5-7 page research paper on female heroism due Nov. 3

--In-class writing assignment on *X-Men* on Nov. 17

--7-9 page research paper on your own definition of heroism or a topic of your own devising approved by teacher, due Dec. 13 in final portfolio.

--Final portfolio with accompanying 2 page reflective essay explaining your revisions and why this represents your best work due Dec. 13.

Oral Report: This 5-minute oral report is on the same topic as your final paper, presenting your research and original ideas to the class. You are not expected to create a visual presentation (such as PowerPoint), but should consider your overall style and organization, as they will be evaluated alongside content.

Final Portfolio: Your final portfolio consists of all the formal writing you have done throughout the semester, including the drafts that have been worked on in class and the comments of your instructor and classmates, so **save your work**. The portfolio will also include your selection of your best informal class writings (from the learnlink postings or in-class essays).

Participation: You are expected to fully participate in class. Full participation includes attending class every day with all your materials, having closely read and thought about the assigned readings, and being ready to discuss them in depth with your classmates. If any of this will prove a hardship for you, please talk with me immediately about making other arrangements for this portion of your grade.

Extra credit: At various points in the semester, I will offer you the chance to earn extra credit as a part of your participation grade. These will include attending and writing up certain public lectures, completing on-line assignments, or preparing additional items for class.

Grading policy:

The final two pages of this syllabus are a copy of the grading sheet that I use to evaluate your papers (and you will use a similar one during draft workshops). An "A" paper is one whose attributes consistently fall into the "excellent" category, a "B" paper into the "above average"

category, a “C” paper into the “average” category, and so on. Plus and minus grades will be given to papers whose attributes consistently fall between categories. Your final grade will be assigned on the plus/minus system.

Late Policy:

Papers are due at the beginning of class on the day assigned. You must hand in a hard-copy—emailing a paper is not acceptable except when approved in advance by the instructor due to an absence. Late papers are accepted, but are penalized one grade level for each 24 hours they are late, beginning at the due time. Thus a paper turned in after class on the day it is due will be penalized one 24-hour time period and therefore one grade level. I strongly encourage you to turn papers in on time as it is a simple way to keep your grades up. Rare extensions may be obtained for demonstrable hardship discussed with the instructor—however, no extensions will be granted within 24 hours of an assignment's due date or for computer malfunctions (so back up your work and leave yourself plenty of time for printer problems).

Attendance policy:

Poor attendance negatively affects your grade. After three unexcused absences, your final grade will lower one level—an A- will become a B+, for example, after four unexcused absences. An excused absence must be requested and excused *before* class begins the day you are absent. Class will begin at 10 am; if you arrive after 10:05 without prior notice to the teacher, you will be counted as tardy. Three unexcused tardies equal one unexcused absence. If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting notes from a classmate and any handouts from me as well as turning in any assignments due that day before class time.

Citation/plagiarism:

The Oxford Honor Code is in effect in this class and the instructor takes violations very seriously. Students are expected to adhere to the principles of intellectual honesty and integrity it outlines and will be held responsible for any violations. A copy of the relevant portions of the code is attached to this syllabus and is also available online at <http://www.emory.edu/OXFORD/CampusLife/Policies/honor.html>. Any suspected plagiarism will be turned over to the Honor Council for disciplinary action by the University.

Writing Center and Peer Assistance:

For this class, I ask that you do NOT use peer assistance in editing your papers except during our in-class draft workshops. Instead, please familiarize yourself with the Writing Center, Language Hall first floor, where you can receive help on all aspects of writing, from brainstorming and thesis formation to organization and revision. You may visit them as often as necessary for any given paper, but they are the only outside help other than your instructor you may receive. The Atlanta campus also has a useful website at www.emory.edu/English/WC.

Accessibility:

Emory University complies with the regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and offers accommodations to students with disabilities. If you need classroom or other accommodations, please discuss this with me as soon as possible. All information will be kept strictly confidential.

Class Schedule

Thursday, Sept. 1

Introduction and overview of the syllabus. Short writing assignment on "What is a hero?"

Current Uses of "Hero"

Tuesday, Sept. 6

Discussion on heroism from your papers

Lesson on LexisNexis and how to access e-reserves

(Wednesday, Sept. 7 is last day for drop-add)

Thursday, Sept. 8

Watching the 9/11 episode of *The West Wing* and discussion. Meet in the Humanities multimedia room.

Sunday, Sept. 11

First Learnlink conference posting due at midnight

Tuesday, Sept. 13

Bring in an article on 9/11/01 and the use of "hero" for discussion.

Handout: 3 page paper assignment

Thursday, Sept. 15

Bring in article on celebrity vs. heroism for discussion and **preliminary thesis statement**

Tuesday, Sept. 20

Draft workshop: Bring in a complete rough draft of your 3 page paper for peer evaluation.

Hero and Mythology

Thursday, Sept. 22

3-page paper due at beginning of class

Library orientation. Meet in the Conference Room of the library.

Handout: Annotated bibliography assignment

Tuesday, Sept. 27

"The Hero" by Lord Raglan from *The Hero: A Study in Tradition, Myth, and Drama*, pp. 178-208 and "Aspects of the Quest" by Dean A. Miller from *The Epic Hero*, pp. 162-76.

Thursday, Sept. 29

Discussion of Arthurian legends. "King Arthur" from *The History of the Kings of Britain* by Geoffrey of Monmouth.

Tuesday, Oct. 4

Continued discussion of Arthurian legends. All e-reserve readings by Sir Thomas Malory from *Le Morte D'Arthur*.

Thursday, Oct. 6

Annotated bibliography due at beginning of class

Graded in-class writing on applying Raglan and Miller's arguments to the Arthurian legends.
Meet in the Humanities multimedia room.

Tuesday, Oct. 11

Midsemester Break—No class

Remember to find three comic books in a series or one graphic novel for the first week of November!

Female Heroism

Thursday, Oct. 13

Watching *Buffy, the Vampire Slayer* episodes. This class is scheduled 7-9:30 pm, so that we have enough time to watch 2 episodes. Attendance is required in the Humanities multimedia room.

Tuesday, Oct. 18

Discussion of *Buffy, the Vampire Slayer* episodes and female heroism

Handout: 5-7 page paper assignment

Thursday, Oct. 20

Howl's Moving Castle, Ch. 1-6

Tuesday, Oct. 25

Howl's Moving Castle, Ch. 7-16

Thursday, Oct. 27

Howl's Moving Castle, Ch. 17-end

Tuesday, Nov. 1

Draft workshop: Bring in complete rough draft of your 5-7 page paper.

Superheroism

Thursday, Nov. 3

5-7 page paper due at beginning of class.

"Heroes and Superheroes" by Jeph Loeb and Tom Morris from *Superheroes and Philosophy: Truth, Justice, and the Socratic Way*, pp. 11-20.

Tuesday, Nov. 8

Read three comic books in a series or one graphic novel with superhero characters and bring them to class for discussion.

Handout: Assignment for final 7-8 page research paper, oral report, and final portfolio.

NOTE: You are responsible for meeting with your instructor to have your final research paper topic approved by Tuesday, Nov. 15 at 5 pm.

Thursday, Nov. 10

This class is scheduled for 7-9:30 pm, so that we have enough time to watch *X-Men*.

Attendance is required at the Kaleidoscope lab in Pierce Hall.

Tuesday, Nov. 15

Discussion on *X-Men*

Thursday, Nov. 17

Graded in-class writing assignment on superheroism in *X-Men* and comic books/graphic novel. Your notes from the film viewing and comic books/graphic novel are permitted. Meet in the Humanities building's multimedia room.

Passive Heroism

Tuesday, Nov. 22

Annotated bibliography for final research paper due

Maus, part I: *My Father Bleeds History*

Wednesday, Nov. 23-Sunday, Nov. 27

Thanksgiving break

Tuesday, Nov. 29

Draft workshop on complete draft of final research paper.

Thursday, Dec. 1

Revised draft due (with previous drafts attached) to instructor at beginning of class

Maus, part II: *And Here My Troubles Began*

Tuesday, Dec. 6

Draft of research paper returned

Maus, parts I & II

Thursday, Dec. 8

Oral reports. Meet in Kaleidoscope lab in Pierce Hall

Tuesday, Dec. 13

Final portfolio (including final draft of research paper and 2 page reflective essay) due at beginning of class.

Oral reports, if needed. Meet in Kaleidoscope lab in Pierce Hall

Wednesday, Dec. 14

Reading Day

Dec. 15-16, 19-21

Exams (no final exam for this course)

Oxford College Student Honor Code

Preamble

The responsibility for maintaining standards of unimpeachable honesty in all academic work and in campus judicial proceedings falls upon every individual who is a part of Oxford College of Emory University. The Honor Code is based on the fundamental expectations that every person in Oxford College will conduct his or her life according to the dictates of the Honor Code and will refuse to tolerate actions in others which would violate the Honor Code.

Article 1: Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct is an offense generally defined as any action or failure to act which is contrary to the integrity and honesty of members of the academic community.

- **A.** Such offenses include, but are not limited to, the following:
 1. Seeking, acquiring, receiving, or giving information about the conduct of an examination, knowing that the release of such information has not been authorized
 2. Plagiarizing
 3. Seeking, using, giving, or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination
 4. Intentionally misshelving, damaging or removing library materials without authorization
 5. Intentionally giving false information to professors or instructors for the purpose of gaining academic advantage
 6. Intentionally giving false testimony in an Honor or Conduct Board hearing or refusing to give evidence when requested by the Honor Council
 7. Intentionally giving unauthorized information regarding hearings of the Oxford College Conduct Board or Honor Council
 8. Breach of any duties prescribed by this code
- **B.** A duty of confidentiality is implicit in the Honor System. it is academic misconduct under this Code for any member of the Honor council, a student witness, or any student (other than the accused) who has obtained knowledge of an Honor Council proceeding, past or present, to breach this confidentiality. Nothing in this paragraph shall restrict communications to officials of the University where knowledge is necessary to the performance of the officials' duties nor shall it restrict disclosure required by law.
- **C.** Harassment of witnesses or anyone involved in an Honor Council hearing, before, during or after the hearing constitutes academic misconduct.

Article 2: Honor Pledge And Obligation

- **A.** A student's signature on a paper or test submitted for credit shall indicate he or she has neither given nor received unauthorized information on the work, nor has condoned the giving or receiving of unauthorized information by others.
- **B.** Each student at Oxford College of Emory University agrees to abide by the honor pledge and takes upon himself or herself the responsibility of upholding the Honor Code. Each student is urged to inquire of the Honor council about any doubtful case at any time throughout the year.
- **C.** Each professor shall explain to his or her classes at the beginning of each semester any special aspects of the Honor Code as it pertains to that course.
- **D.** "State of the Honor Code" meeting of the student body and the Council shall be held periodically upon the call of the Council. The purpose of these meetings will be to discuss how the Honor Code is working, to strengthen understanding of the Code among members of the College community, and to promote improvements.

Article 3: Reporting Cases

It is the responsibility of every member of the faculty, administration and student body to cooperate in supporting the honor system. In pursuance of this duty, any individual, when he or she suspects that an offense of academic misconduct has occurred, shall report this suspected breach to a member of the Honor Council or the Dean.

Article 4: Rights Of The Accused

The accused shall have the following rights:

- **A.** To receive a written statement of the charges at least five (5) days in advance of the hearing. This written statement shall contain a brief statement of the nature of the alleged offense. This statement shall be drawn by the Chair and Secretary in consultation with the Faculty Coordinator if, after a preliminary investigation by them, they determine that there is a reasonable cause for a hearing. In the event that the accused does not accept the written statement of charges or does not sign acknowledging receipt, the hearing will nonetheless occur as

scheduled.

- **B.** To receive a copy of this Honor Code and have his or her rights explained.
- **C.** To have an adviser from the faculty or administration of Oxford College to assist at the hearing. It is mandatory that such an adviser be obtained. The adviser's function will be:
 1. To explain the accused's rights.
 2. To investigate the charges and advise as the best way to present the defense.
 3. To call witnesses and present evidence.
 4. To question the accused and witnesses at the hearing.
- **D.** To request a postponement of a hearing for good cause. The request shall be in writing, addressed to the Chair of the Honor Council and must state the reason for making the request. The disposition of the request is at the discretion of the Dean.
- **E.** To testify and present evidence in his or her behalf, subject to limitations on the number of witnesses imposed by the Honor Council and to be present during the presentation of all evidence. If, however, the accused student does not appear at the hearing as scheduled, the hearing will nonetheless proceed in the absence of the accused.
- **F.** To appeal.

Article 5: Procedure

- **A.** Hearings shall be fair and impartial. All evidence regardless of whether it meets the test of admissibility of the rules of evidence, shall be elicited by the Honor Council. Witnesses will testify without oath and signed statements may be submitted from unavailable witnesses. While any witnesses (including the accused) is giving testimony, only members of the Honor Council, the accused, and the adviser to the accused may be present. A faculty secretary may be present to record hearings.
- **B.** The Honor Council shall be allowed all possible latitude in determining whether a violation has occurred and shall itself determine the weight and pertinence of the evidence. The Dean shall have access to all meetings, discussions, minutes and deliberations.
- **C.** Refusal of a witness to testify shall constitute academic misconduct under this code.
- **D.** Harassment of witnesses will constitute misconduct under this code.
- **E.** At the conclusion of the evidence, the Honor Council shall retire to deliberate in secret. No one involved in the investigation of the charges shall be present during deliberations and only the six (6) voting members may deliberate. A unanimous vote of the six (6) voting members shall be required for a finding of an Honor Code violation. Upon finding an Honor Code violation, the Honor Council shall recommend the sanctions by majority vote.
- **F.** The following sanctions may be imposed:
 1. Honor Council probation for one (1) year: The penalty is automatic on conviction, and the student shall be given formal notice in writing that any further violation shall be sufficient cause for further disciplinary action;
 2. F in the work involved, with prior consent of the professor;
 3. F in the course on the student's permanent transcript, with the prior consent of the professor;
 4. Honor Council Suspension (specifying the period of suspension);
 5. Honor Council Dismissal: All courses in process shall receive a grade of "W" except any course for which an "F" is recorded under (3) above;
 6. Honor Council Expulsion; or
 7. Such combination of sanctions or other sanction as may appear appropriate.
- **G.** A student who drops or withdraws from a course and receives a W and is later found guilty of an honor code violation that occurred while enrolled in the course may receive a WF at the discretion of the Council and the Dean.
- **H.** The findings and recommendations of the Honor Council shall be transmitted to the Dean promptly in a concise written report. After receipt of the report, the student shall be promptly notified in writing of the Dean's

decision and any sanctions imposed. The Dean may reject the finding of guilt, but not one of acquittal, may modify the severity of the recommended sanctions or may require the Honor Council to hold a new hearing.

Article 6: Appeals

- **A.** A student may appeal a finding of guilty, the punishment, or both to the Appeals committee. The appeal must be written and submitted to the Chair of the Honor Appeals Committee within seven (7) days of the receipt of the Dean's decision.
- **B.** The Honor Appeals Committee shall be composed of three (3) faculty members appointed by the Dean. The committee shall recommend to the Dean that a previous decision be affirmed that the penalty be reconsidered, or that a new hearing be held.
- **C.** The Honor Appeals Committee shall review the report and physical evidence in the case, may take additional evidence and in its discretion, permit the accused to submit additional evidence. The Appeals Committee may consult with whomever they consider appropriate in reviewing the case. Upon completion of the review, the Appeals Committee shall advise the Dean of its recommendations.
- **D.** The Dean shall promptly notify the accused in writing of the recommendation and of any action he or she is taking based thereon.

GRADESHEET					
Author:					
Title:					
Assignment:					
Peer Reviewer (if draft):					
Criteria	Excellent	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor
ARGUMENT					
Subject					
Thesis					
Originality					
Logic					
Use of Details					
Development					
Title					
Introduction and Conclusion					
MECHANICS					
Spelling					
Punctuation					
Grammar					
Citations					
Formatting					
STYLE					
Diction					
Syntax					
Paragraphing					
Clarity					
Conciseness					
Coherence					
Organization					
RESEACH (if assigned)					
Breadth					
Depth					
Use					

COMMENTS			
FINAL GRADE			
CORRECTION SYMBOLS			
NOTE: These are not the only criteria that will be marked on your papers, but a reference to editing shorthand.			
sp	Spelling error	?	Questionable assumption or logic
	Punctuation error		Paragraph break needed
	Delete		Should be lower case
	Reverse letters or words		Should be upper case
	Move	awk	Awkward
	Insert	unnec	Unnecessary
	Add space	_____	Italics
s-v	Subject-verb agreement error	ref	Unclear referent (unclear antecedent)
	Good point	cite	Needs a citation
frag.	Sentence fragment	sp in	Split infinite
run-on	Run-on sentence		
()	Unnecessary word, phrase, or punctuation.		
pass	Passive voice		
REFERENCES			
MLA Handbook for Writers		The Elements of Style by Strunk and White	