

DePaul University  
School for New Learning

Advanced Elective  
**Transformations: The Hero's Journey**

**Faculty:** Laurie Polhemus, M.A.  
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**Hours:** Thursday, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

**Location:** Barat

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Competence Offered:** E-1 Written by student/faculty.  
E-2 Written by student/faculty.

**Textbook:**

Pearson, Carol S. *The Hero Within: Six Archetypes We Live By*. Harper, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.

**Course Description:** This course introduces Joseph Campbell's framework of the Hero's Journey and archetypal patterns to explore transformations in individuals and cultures through both literary and real-life situations. Through the use of the symbolic language of the journey and archetypes, we will explore our own unique heroic paths and the power we have to transform our lives and the world around us. Along with the map of the hero's journey that includes the stages of Departure, Initiation, and Return, we will use the six primary archetypal patterns—Innocent, Orphan, Wanderer, Warrior, Altruist, and Magician—to examine the stages of personal growth and development throughout our journeys. We are all Heroes, and we are all called to The Adventure.

"Furthermore, we have not even to risk the adventure alone, for the heroes of all time have gone before us. The labyrinth is thoroughly known. We have only to follow the thread of the hero path, and where we had thought to find an abomination, we shall find a god. And where we had thought to slay another, we shall slay ourselves. Where we had thought to travel outward, we will come to the center of our own existence. And where we had thought to be alone, we will be with all the world."

Joseph Campbell

**Evaluation:** Students will be evaluated on their ability to apply the framework of the Hero's Journey and the archetypal patterns to academic and personal contexts including films and cultural situations. Two papers will be written. The first paper is the Personal Heroic Narrative which reflects the student's application of the Hero's Journey framework and archetypal patterns to his or her own life. The second paper is a Film Analysis using a movie of the student's choice to map the Hero's journey and transformation and to identify the primary archetypal characters and their significance. Students will give a brief presentation of the Film Analysis to the class. Additionally, there will be weekly readings and reflective exercises as well as class participation. Students will also select brief video segments reflecting characters that embody the various archetypes.

Transformations, cont.  
L. Polhemus  
Spring 2003

**Course Outcomes:** Students will be able to demonstrate the following abilities:

- ❑ Understand the stages of the Hero's Journey and be able to identify the symbolic expression of the journey in literary (film) examples.
- ❑ Understand and recognize the primary archetypal patterns reflected in literary works (film).
- ❑ Recognize and interpret symbolic language within literary and personal contexts.
- ❑ Apply Hero's Journey framework and archetypal patterns to analyze and interpret one's own personal journey and transformation.
- ❑ Apply Hero's Journey framework and archetypal patterns to analyze and interpret a literary (film) work.
- ❑ Select real-life examples of individuals and events (historical and current) reflecting journeys and archetypes.

**CALENDAR:** (The following is a tentative guide. Specific in-class and homework assignments will be explained during class time.)

<u>Week One</u>	April 3	Course introduction. The Hero's Journey, Joseph Campbell, Symbolic language, Metaphors/Figurative language, Myths, Transformations—individual, cultural, global, Journeys Video: <i>The Power of Myth: The Hero's Adventure</i>
<u>Week Two</u>	April 10	Readings: <i>The Hero Within</i> , Intro, pgs. 3-16, & Chapter 1 Film & journey analysis
<u>Week Three</u>	April 17	Readings: <i>The Hero Within</i> , Chapters 2 & 3 <b>Orphan and Wanderer</b>
<u>Week Four</u>	April 24	Readings: <i>The Hero Within</i> , Chapter 4 <b>Warrior</b>
<u>Week Five</u>	May 1	Readings: <i>The Hero Within</i> , Chapter 5 <b>Altruist</b>
<u>Week Six</u>	May 8	Readings: <i>The Hero Within</i> , Chapters 6 & 7 <b>Innocent and Magician</b>
<u>Week Seven</u>	May 15	Readings: <i>The Hero Within</i> , Part II, Intro & Chapters 8-10
<u>Week Eight</u>	May 22	TBD
<u>Week Nine</u>	May 29	Personal Heroic Narrative DUE
<u>Week Ten</u>	June 5	Film Analysis DUE and presentations