

# Mythologies

## PRESENTATION & RESEARCH ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

Presentations will be scheduled from Monday, April 11 to Monday, May 2. Each should last approximately ten minutes (the equivalent of four typed, double-spaced pages) and should concern a research topic having to do with mythology in contemporary culture. Ideally, it will also be the topic of the student's research essay.

The final research essay is due Monday, May 9, in my office by 2:00 p.m. This essay should reach eight to ten pages, with a standard-sized font, regular margins, and a staple. It should bear a title—a creative one, if possible. Sources must be documented, and I leave it to the student to choose the style of documentation.

The essay should make an argument: it is not sufficient simply to deliver research findings. They must be analyzed, too.



The research essay analyzes mythology at work at a particular site in contemporary culture. Roland Barthes' *Mythologies* begins to suggest the variety of possible sites, but the essay does not need to reference or follow Barthes.

The essay must cite at least one of the texts discussed in the course, whether literary or critical, as well as incorporate at least three outside sources. Dictionaries and encyclopedias do not count as sources. Be cautious with web pages.

The mythological analysis should lead to some insight into contemporary culture.

Students who want the research essay returned with commentary will need to submit it with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.