

Inquiry into Mythic “Worlds”

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This course will examine the appeal of mythic “worlds” as they appear in film and literature. Why do we seek to create and substitute these *versions* of reality for our own? This and other questions will be explored through the reading of novels and viewing of films. These “texts” will be framed by readings from selected myth theorists. Group presentations will precede each of the major texts to be explored. Additional requirements consist of informal film responses and three longer, formal papers developing a specific mode of inquiry. The list of required texts includes but is not limited to the novels *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*, *The Hobbit*, and *Star Wars IV: A New Hope*, and films *Fight Club* and *Pan’s Labyrinth*. Additional films will be screened weekly, and students may select any seven (7) of the fourteen to respond to.