The Hero in Popular Culture
Spring 2021

Instructor Info:
Kate Koppy, PhD
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Office: Arlington, Virginia, USA (MSK -8 through 13.03.21, MSK -7 from 14.03.21)
Office Hours: Wednesdays 17:00-20:00 MSK Via Zoom, code: KoppyNES
https://zoom.us/j/7717118921?pwd=byt2TjAxbFR2NStPQ2JNclJUcVRVUT09

Class Meetings:

Mondays	17:10-18:30	room 113	https://online.nes.ru/ol-113 (code: 123258)
Thursday during Week 7 ONLY	17:10-18:30	room 113	https://online.nes.ru/ol-113 (code: 123258)

Course Info:
English ### The Hero in Popular Culture

Course Description:
What does it mean to be a hero? How do we define heroism? This course will explore answers to these questions by reading and viewing texts from Russian and American popular culture. Heroes under consideration will include Prince Ivan, Princess Olga, Ilya Muromec, Vasilisa, Tony Stark, Carol Danvers, and Binti. Texts will include fairy tales, novels, and films. The language of the classroom will be English, but some reading and viewing may be done in Russian.

Upon completion of this course, students should have progressed in their ability to:
- Formulate an interesting research question that is appropriate to the assignment and available resources
- Locate, evaluate, and cite sources in the scholarly, journalistic, and popular domains
- Use in-text citations to distinguish sources' words and ideas from the writer's own
- Read, annotate, and analyze literature and film
- Reflect on their own practice and progress in weekly journals
- Identify and correct common grammar and vocabulary mistakes in English
- Revise in response to feedback from peer readers as well as the instructor
- Participate in oral discussion and debate in English, though, it should be stressed, this is not predominantly a speaking course

Required Texts:
Books you'll get from the library:
Orson Scott Card, *Enchantment,* 9780345482402
Nnedi Okorafor, *Binti: The Complete Trilogy,* 9780756416935
G. Willow Wilson and Adrian Alphona, *Ms. Marvel: Vol 1 No Normal,* 978-0-7851-9021-9

Texts I'll provide as pdfs on Canvas:
"Prince Ivan and the Grey Wolf," in Russian and English
"Vasilisa the Beautiful" and "Vasilisa the Wise" in Russian and English
assorted secondary articles

Films:
Melnitsa's film *Prince Ivan and the Grey Wolf*
Marvel's film *Iron Man*

Required Software:
Canvas (course management system)
Google Chrome (browser)
Google Drive (using your nes.ru Gmail account)
Kami (browser extension for Google Drive)

3. <u>TEACHING METHOD</u>
Lecture, discussion, and workshop

Attendance: Attendance will be logged weekly. You will be counted as present if you have interacted with the course in at least two different ways during the week--attended a synchronous session, sent me a message via e-mail, submitted an assignment, participated in an asynchronous class discussion, etc. If you are absent for more than one week, please contact me to discuss how to stay on track with the course activities. Absences do not have a direct effect on your grade in this course.

Success: To be successful in this course, you should read, show up to class, and participate

- This class is highly interactive; students are expected to come to synchronous virtual class meetings having read the literature and prepared to discuss it.
- A good discussion class depends on a respectful community attitude. At some points, we may discuss sensitive subjects including race, violence, sexuality, and rape. You should feel free to share your own thoughts about the books we are reading and films we are watching. At the same time, please respect the opinions of your classmates and remember that no two readers are alike; every person will have a different response to a text.
- Assignments will be considered late if they are submitted after the deadline on the day they are due. Late work will result in the final grade for that assignment being penalized one letter grade for every class day they are late, unless noted otherwise below. If you become ill or the victim of an emergency situation, contact me as soon as possible to make alternate arrangements. Late assignments may not be accepted more than two weeks after the due date.
  Weekly journals may not be submitted late.
  Drafts that will be peer reviewed may not be submitted late.
  Peer reviews may be submitted late, but must be submitted at least 48 hours before the next deadline on the project.

- E-mail: You are required to have access to Canvas and are responsible for checking your NES e-mail address daily for class updates. Students should check their nes.ru email accounts regularly, as important information about the course (emergency cancellations, deadline changes) may be communicated in that way. Email is also the best way to reach me. I will generally respond to email within 24 hours. If you have a question about an assignment, you should not wait until the night it is due to ask.
- Suggested weekly rhythm:
    - Monday morning—read the Weekly Overview page, make plans for completing the work
    - Monday—attend synchronous class session via Zoom
    - Wednesday, Thursday, Friday—complete some work each day
    - Saturday—ensure that all work is submitted by 23:59 MSK.
    - Sunday—rest or work ahead in order to rest later

4. GRADING POLICY

Discussions, Annotattions, and Activities	100 pts. (approx)
Weekly Journals (10 pts each, 2 lowest scores will be dropped)	130 pts.
Analysis Assignments (100 pts each x 2)	200 pts.
Project	
Proposal	25 pts.
Conference (25 pts each x 2)	50 pts.
Draft 1	25 pts.
Peer Review	25 pts.
Draft 2	25 pts.
Peer Review	25 pts.
Final Submission	200 pts.
Text presentation	100 pts.
Total	905 points (approx)

To pass the course, a student must earn at least 65% of the points overall AND earn at least 65% of the points on the Final Submission of the Final Project and the Book Presentation. (In other words, a student cannot pass the class without passing the final two assignments.)

Grade Breakdown - The percentage of points that you earn in the assignments over the course of this semester corresponds to the NES ten-point scale according to this chart.

10 - >97.0%	9 - 93.0-96.999%	8 - 87.0-92.999%
7 - 83.0-86.999%	6 - 77.0-82.999%	5 - 73.0-76.999%
4 - 65.0-72.999%	3 - 60-64.999%	2 - 50.0-59.999%
1 - <50%		

Make-up Work:
If a student receives a failing grade in the course, he/she must complete any blocking assignments that are failing or incomplete. These assignments must be completed during the designated make-up period and will be assessed by the course instructor.

Only the following assignments are eligible for make-up:

Final Project, Book Presentation

If the course instructor determines that the student has still not passed the course, the student will complete an additional make-up assignment that will be assessed by a three-member panel. This assignment will be graded on a pass/fail basis to determine whether the student has demonstrated all the skills they should have acquired during the course (see Course Description).

Weekly Journals:
Each week from week 1 to week 11, you will submit a reading journal on Canvas. Each submission should include a 200-300 word response to the texts. Your responses might note patterns you're seeing from one week to the next, connections among texts, connections between course texts and the world outside the classroom, personal reflections, or criticisms of the ideas in the texts. These reading journals will be used in your planning for the Final Project. Weekly Reading Journals may be submitted any time during the week. If you're reading ahead, you can write them up and submit them as you read.

Each week from week 12 to week 16, you will submit a project journal on Canvas. Each submission should include one paragraph that talks about how you spent your project work time that week and one paragraph reflecting on how your project is going, totaling 200-300 words.

In order to earn points, these journals MUST be submitted no later than 11:59 PM on Saturday of that week. Late Weekly Journals will not be accepted. For each student, the two lowest scores in this category will be dropped. No Journal needs to be submitted during Spring Break.

Text Presentation:
Each of you will choose a text related to the course theme in consultation with the professor. You might choose a novel, a series of short stories, a non-fiction work, a film, a documentary, or an album. Read, watch, or listen to the text and prepare a 3-5 minute presentation about the text. Your audience is your classmates, and they want to know what the text is about, why it is important, how it relates to the themes of the course, what you liked about it, and whether you think they should read, listen to, or watch it. Presentations must be given in class during the assigned weeks of the semester.

<u>Final Project Options:</u>
Project proposals must be approved by the instructor no later than 4 weeks before the due date, but you may begin working at any time during the semester.

Options 1 and 2 may be done in groups of up to 4 students. The project proposal should include a description of how each student will contribute to the project.

1. Creative Project
Develop a webpage, board game, video, piece of art, short story, film, or other creative work related to the content of this course. It may focus on one or a group of texts on the syllabus. Alternatively, the creative project may focus more broadly on the literary or cultural concepts we discuss. Method of submission will be specific to the type of project. You will also write an individual reflection on the project (2 pages, submitted on Canvas) due 24 hours after projects are submitted.

2. Economics Project Related to the Course
This options asks you to connect the content of the course to the work you are doing in your major field of study. More details forthcoming.

3. Literary Research Paper:
You will write one paper in which you synthesize scholarly research about your chosen text with your own ideas. You may analyze the text in terms of form, genre, symbols, or theme. You may choose to focus on specific characters, plot events, or ideas. Submission of two preliminary drafts and participation in classroom peer review activities are required for this assignment. Points for these intermediate steps will be recorded in the Quizzes, Drafts, and Activities Category.

The literary research paper should be 10-12 pages long in MLA format. A page of academic text is 12pt Times New Roman or Arial font, double spaced, with one-inch margins all around.

Late final projects will be penalized one point for every day they are late.

Academic Honesty:
This course seeks to uphold the Joint Program's commitment to ensuring academic honesty. All work submitted in this class must be the student's own. Assignments calling for the use of outside sources must contain both a Reference page and in-text citations or footnotes. APA and MLA are the standard citation formats for this course. Suspected cases of plagiarism will be reported to the Joint Program administration.

The Writing and Communication Center
The WCC is a free student support service designed to assist you with all your writing needs during your time in the program (and even after you graduate). Consultants (both English and Russian speakers) are available to meet with you for 45-minute sessions. You may sign up for a consultation using the "WCC" tab on my.nes.ru. For further information, see the WCC's website at www.nes.ru/wcc and follow the WCC's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/neswcc).

Schedule *(subject to change)*:

Unit I – Russian Heroes

Week 1 (January 11-17) - Orientation, Setup, What does it mean to be a hero?
Week 2 (January 18-24) - Ivan and Vasilisa in Russian and in English, translation studies
Week 3 (January 25-31) - *Prince Ivan and the Grey Wolf,* Melnitsa, adaptation studies
Week 4 (February 1-7) - *Enchantment,* Orson Scott Card, feminist theory
Week 5 (February 8-14) - *Enchantment,* Orson Scott Card
Week 6 (February 15-21) - *Enchantment,* Orson Scott Card

Unit II – American Heroes

Week 7 (February 22-28) - *Iron Man*, Marvel Studios, hero/monster theory
Week 8 (March 1-7) - *Ms. Marvel, Vol. 1,* G. Willow Wilson, graphic narrative studies
Week 9 (March 8-14) -*Binti*, Nnedi Okorafor, Africanfuturism
Week 10 (March 15-21) – *Binti*, Nnedi Okorafor, postcolonial studies
Week 11 (March 22-28 - *Binti*, Nnedi Okorafor, project proposal

Unit III – Project Workshop

Week 12 (March 29 - April 4) - Consultation Week - conferences on project proposals
Week 13 (April 5-11) - Project Draft 1, peer review
Week 14 (April 12-18) - Book Presentations
Week 15 (April 19-25) - Project Draft 2, peer review
Week 16 (April 26 - May 2) - Revision and Editing of final project submission