

MYTHOLOGICAL STRUCTURE & STORYTELLING IN CINEMA*

S.MEHMET İNAN

“What is the power of Myth? Why do modern myths such as Star Wars, Lord of the Rings, The Dune Trilogy or the Matrix Movies; have such a powerful and profound effect on people? Why do they seem to have such resonance with us? And all through the history of humankind why have myths been stories of such central importance to their respective cultures and which have held them in such high regard? What is the meaning of Myth, their significance and purpose?”

In a sense, Myths are stories that talk about the higher things and the more profound subject matters. They deal with the important issues to do with God, Cosmic Origins, Ultimate Conclusions, Purpose and Destiny. They derive from humankind’s quest to answer the big questions concerning the nature of the divine, the nature of reality, the human condition, higher powers and our relationship to those higher powers, they deal with the meaning of life.”

In this course we try to discover the real meaning of the myth for human psyche and the principles of mythologic structure of storytelling with examples from the world cinema.and try to design our own stories especially by reading and comparing traditional Turkish mythological stories with other mythological stories(example: Dede Korkut Hikayeleri, King Oedipus, King Arthur, Beowulf, Mulan)
You can’t create imaginative good stories without knowing your own cultural heritage which is coded in our collective (un)consciousness.You can’t design a good mythical story without deep characters, attractive plots,.and immense power of imagination.

Writing stories,fairytales, legends for cinema are one of the most effective way of expressing our feelings and ideas which are flying in our mind.

But if you want to express your self to the universe by all means.You need to be grounded by the principles of storytelling.The basic of storytelling is grounded to understand the mythological structure.

“Story is about principles, not rules
Story is about eternal, universal forms, not formulas
Story is about the realities, not mysteries of writing”

-Robert McKee-

Course Evaluation: Midterm 30%, Final 50%, Short Paper 10%, Class Grade 10%...

Course Outline:

1.What is the power of Myth?

2.Myth & Reality

3.Genre Films and Cultural Myths

4.The Mythical sources of popular Cinema

Examples:Lord of the Rings, Batman,Gora,Köroğlu,Keloğlan,Star Wars, Spirited Aways etc.

5.Turkish Myths and Cinema

6.Stages of Hero's Journey(Monomyth) in Mythological Structure

"A Hero with Thousand Faces"

Joseph Campbell

7.Basic Principles of Story Writing for Cinema

"Story"

John McKee

8.How to create characters?

To built a deep, emphatic characher we need to know our selves

8.How To Use A Specific Cultural Heritage To Improve Your Plot(Story)?

9.Turkish Cultural Heritage

"Dede Korkut Hikâyeleri" –Turkish reading

Some of candidate screening films :

Godfather, Star Wars, Apocolypse Now, Fight Club, Batman, Lord of the Rings , Keloğlan, Köroğlu, Ulak, Gora, Clash of Gods, Lion of the Desert,Spirited Away etc..

***IMPORTANT:**

TO ATTEND ON THIS COURSE YOU NEED BASIC TURKISH UNDERSTANDING AND READING SKILLS. BECAUSE OF SOME MATERIALS BE USED IN THE CLASS ARE IN TURKISH.