

LIONS GATE *University*

NEW COURSE

LIFE LESSONS FROM THE GREAT MYTHS

Starting Tuesday, APRIL 5, 2016 @ 3:15 PM

About This Course: 36 30 min. Lectures

Hector and Achilles clash on the battlefields of Troy. Arthur discovers a magical sword and becomes a powerful British king. Jesse James pulls off daring crimes across the American frontier. Myths and stories such as these have captivated billions of people throughout human history. But these and other moments are more than just mere entertainment; they also serve a more important purpose.

Great myths and grand tales teach people about the hopes and values of their cultures, and they impart invaluable life lessons that can teach, guide, and inspire. The ways in which the human imagination can transform historical events, people, and themes into powerful myths that endure through the ages is nothing short of awe-inspiring. And to examine the core of the world's greatest myths and tales—and the larger-than-life characters who figure in them—is to confront some of history's most basic human truths. It's also an engaging opportunity to better understand them, learn from them, and possibly even apply them to your own everyday life.

- **Myths from ancient Greece and Rome:** You'll travel back to the veritable cradle of Western civilization and investigate how views on warfare, heroism, family, justice, and other human values were shaped by myths and tales about the Trojan War, the adventures of Jason and Theseus, the tragedy of the House of Atreus, the founding of Rome, the rule of Julius Caesar, and more.
- **Myths from the Near East and the Middle East:** Focusing on the Mesopotamian Epic of Gilgamesh and the books of Genesis and Exodus, you'll discover how ancient stories and events—including Gilgamesh's quest for immortality, the calling of Moses, and the bestowal of the Ten Commandments—can serve as the backbone for politics, culture, and spirituality.
- **Myths from early and modern Europe:** Europe is also rife with its own mythologies and tales that built the foundations of the modern West and that still impart lessons on leadership. Among those you look at are chivalric Arthurian legends, Viking travels to North America, the Battle of Kosovo, and the near-mythic life of Napoleon Bonaparte.
- **Myths from the United States:** America, you'll learn, was a fertile field for transforming history into myth and shaping the nation's unique approach to freedom and self-reliance. Here, you'll find out what you can learn from the lives and deeds of George Washington, Davy Crockett, Jesse James, General Armstrong Custer, and other bold American figures.