

# Troy, Aeneas and Odysseus Revisited: Classics in the Middle School Curriculum

## *A Workshop for Middle School Teachers*

**Friday, December 14, 2007**

**9:00 AM—1:00 PM**

Sponsored by

**The Institute for the Humanities and the Department of Classics & General Humanities**

**Montclair State University**

This program is the second one in a series designed to make the culture of the Classical Greek and Roman world more accessible to the curriculum of middle schools by exploring—under the guidance of both active middle school teachers and college professors—both general topics and specific classroom activities. The program is appropriate for teachers of language arts, the social studies, art, world languages, and other subjects. We will especially emphasize material that can be used in lesson plans and assignments. As much time as possible will be provided during the program for teachers to share experiences and ideas.

The day will begin with an introduction to Greek and Roman tales of the Trojan War and its aftermath, especially as they are presented in the epics of Homer and Vergil. We will then consider how three film treatments of Troy and related myths (Cacoyannis' *Iphigeneia*, Wolfgang Petersen's *Troy* with Brad Pitt, and the Joel & Ethan Coen *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*) can inform the teaching of myth and contribute to learning in several areas, especially through the cultural, literary, and ethical issues that they raise. Next, we will discuss how to write curriculum based middle school lessons connecting the ancient past to today through the use of mythology and epics. In particular, we will look at how Ancient Greek myths and culture can be used to enhance language arts skills. In addition, we will demonstrate how Homer's *Odyssey* can be used as a prime example of the hero's journey and how it serves to raise questions of justice that are relevant to character education in a language arts class. The program will conclude with a box lunch accompanied by a presentation on practical suggestions for implementing the theme of this conference in the middle school classroom. This final session will provide an opportunity for teachers to share their experiences and ideas and to voice their specific suggestions for future conferences of this type.

The presenters include Jay Braverman (Classics & General Humanities, MSU), Angelina Carione (Teacher of Reading and Writing, Cleary Middle School, Minitola, NJ), Prudence Jones (Classics & General Humanities, MSU), Carol Kotch (Middle School, Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy, Livingston, NJ), Patricia Salzman (Classics & General Humanities, Montclair State University).

NOTE: This program is a follow-up to "Troy and the Trojan War: Incorporating the Classics into the Middle School Classroom," an experimental program held at Montclair State on December 1, 2006 and attended by about 25 middle school teachers of the social studies, English, Latin, and other subjects; we wish to thank this group for their feedback that we hope will help make the second program even more successful.

### ***Professional Development Credit***

**Teachers will receive 4 hours of professional development credit for this program. Letters of verification will be mailed to your school address following the conference.**

### ***Registration Information***

The registration fee, including lunch, is \$70.00 per person.

For planning purposes we ask that you return the enclosed registration form, along with your check or purchase order number to our office by the **deadline** date, **Thursday, December 6th**. All fees or PO's must be received by the deadline.

Registration forms may be faxed and the fee mailed under separate cover.

Make checks payable to: *Montclair State University*

We do not bill schools for payment. If you plan to use a purchase order, send us a copy of the registration form, as well as a copy to your business office to act as an invoice.

After we receive your registration information, a confirmation letter with directions to campus and parking information will be sent via E-mail to you.

#### **Contact us:**

**Phone: 973-655-7516**

**Fax: 973-655-7207**

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