Below are the Take-home final questions. They are **due on December 6th** and must be uploaded (in an openable file format) to the Final folder in Brightspace by 10:30 AM of that day. All answers must be submitted on time and in a single document

**Format**

The answers to each question must be a minimum of 700 words (approximately two pages), double spaced with 1”/25cm margins all around, and in 12pt Times New Roman font. Upload a copy in MS Office .doc or .docx format or PDF only. I cannot open Apple Pages files or Google Docs files.

Cite all information explicitly drwan from a particular source in text according to APA style.

No bibliography is required.

Note: when I ask you to use several theories/theoreticians from several chapters, don’t freak out. The same theoreticians appear in most chapters and you can just follow your choice through.

**ANSWER ANY THREE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS**

**1. This question** relates to the Conclusion in the text, which discusses the Gaia myth and its resurgence in the modern world through the writings of Lovelock. Segal describes Lovelock’s Gaia hypothesis as containing contradictory mythic and scientific elements. “Animate Earth” supports the Gaia hypothesis as scientific while integrating several mythic/mystical ideas. “Vegetational Concepts” criticizes it as being metaphorical and unscientific because of its integration of myth.

What I want to see/where the marks are

Summarize the main points of the arguments for and against, making explicit reference to each of these three sources and at least three theories and the theorists who used them (note, Segal is not a theorist but discusses appropriate ones in chapter one and the conclusion). Finish with a statement of which position you are most in agreement with and why

<http://langara.kanopystreaming.com/video/animate-earth>

<http://langara.kanopystreaming.com/video/use-and-abuse-vegetational-concepts>

Note that you will have to be signed in at the library site to access these

**2. This question** is on Chapter 6 “Myth and Psychology”. The theme of this chapter is the role of myth and folklore in charting a metaphorical path, a rite of passage, from childhood to adulthood. For many of the theoreticians in this chapter a hero walks that path, a figure we as individuals relate to emotionally.

The psychological elements of a mythical hero’s journey appear in several ways in the modern world, particularly in media and advertising. In the two TED talks below, the presenters consciously use classical mythic themes to construct modern myths; one using cartoons to illustrate religious values, one mythologizing customer service. In both cases they are trying to recreate that path and that emotional link with individuals.

What I want to see/where the marks are

Identify at least three elements borrowed from the structure of classic hero journey (as described in the text) by each of these presenters and elaborate on the theory/theories and theoreticians that best match the myths the presenters have manufactured. Finish with a discussion of how successful you feel their efforts at modern myth-making were.

<https://www.ted.com/talks/naif_al_mutawa_superheroes_inspired_by_islam>

<https://www.ted.com/talks/devdutt_pattanaik>

(This is not part of the question. If you are interested in what happened to the North American release of Naif Al Mutawa’s animated series, go to <https://vimeo.com/28739405>)

**3. In the Introduction of** the text, Segal describes the origin, function and subject matter of a myth as being the 3 main objects of theory. In this question, focus on ‘origin’ and ‘function’. In your opinion, does myth originate from a source or need that is common to all humanity? Does an analysis of myth lead us to an understanding of what it is to be, and how we came to be, human?

What I want to see/where the marks are

State your position on this question and then support that position using material from any 3 of the following 4 chapters in Segal: Chapter 1 (science); Chapter 3 (religion); Chapter 6 (psychology) and Chapter 7 (structure). For example, you can examine whether you agree that myth fulfills any or all of psychological, religious or scientific purposes for all people through all time, using one theoretician from each chapter or following one theoretician through all three.

**4. In his TED talk** (link below), Wade Davis quotes Matthieu Ricard saying, "Western science is a major response to minor needs." Science succeeds by not asking difficult questions about existence, the meaning of life, etc. They outsourced those to philosophy and religion.

In this essay I would like you to take the position that the separation of science from philosophy and religion is an artificial one, and it simply doesn’t work. In this you will have to argue against Segal and most of the theoreticians in the text who argue for it. You might even argue against what you personally believe. Tricky.

What I want to see/where the marks are

Draw material and arguments presented in the Wade Davis and Bali videos, from Segal’s conclusion, and one other chapter in Segal (chapters one, two and three recommended). Again, make explicit reference to the material from each of the assigned videos, as well as two theories and associated theoreticians in Segal that most effectively support an argument against the separation of myth into these separate domains of knowledge.

<https://www.ted.com/talks/wade_davis_on_the_worldwide_web_of_belief_and_ritual>

<https://langara.kanopy.com/video/three-worlds-bali-1979>