

## Mythology Study guide

### Part 7: Contemporary Myth, pp. 723--726

What difficulties present themselves when trying to identify contemporary myths?

What two points of Victor Turner regarding ritual are relevant to looking at modern myths?

What is the “bubble gum fallacy”?

What perhaps is the “genius of contemporary mythmaking”?

### Chapter 42: *Stagecoach* and *Firefly* – The Journey Into the Unknown in Westerns and Science Fiction

pp. 743--756

Identify the four categories and defining characteristics of science fiction and fantasy.

What important role does science play in contemporary myths?

Identify the themes of *Star Trek* and how the series reflected the issues of its time and audience.

Identify the themes of *The X-Files* and how the series reflected the issues of its time and audience.

Know the following *Firefly*-related terms:

Terraforming, Central Planets, Alliance, Browncoats, Reavers

Identify the themes of *Firefly* and how the series reflected the issues of its time and audience.

What is the basic story structure of *Stagecoach* and *Firefly*?

What does the environment/setting of each story contribute to the respective tale?

What are the three themes that “stand out” as similarities between *Stagecoach* and *Firefly*?

Define Fordian community. How does this apply to *Stagecoach* and *Firefly*?

In what ways are Ringo (*Stagecoach*) and Mal Reynolds (*Firefly*) similar? What personal

beliefs/attitudes/values do they share? How does this contribute to the tales?