

ARKY 327.01: FRAUDS, MYTHS, AND MYSTERIES
ARCHAEOLOGY AND POPULAR CULTURE
Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00 pm – 14:45 pm A142

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Office Hours: By appointment
Office Phone: (403) 270 3430
Office: Earth Science (Department of Archaeology) 740

Course Description

This course evaluates the logical flaws in pseudoscientific explanations of archaeological topics, and examines popular and fantastic interpretations of archaeological remains presented in the press and popular media/culture. A series of topics in this class show how archaeology is presented as unsubstantiated, occult, and speculative science about our prehistoric past. On the other hand, subjects like pyramids, cave paintings, human evolution, Stonehenge, the Maya, aliens, and popular legends fascinate people and motivate them to visit museum, archaeological sites, and also to buy archaeology books, giving archaeology a prominent place in our society and making it accessible to the general public. Inaptly the press and popular media exploit people's interest to twist discoveries made by scientific archaeology. This course provides perspective on unsubstantiated claims made about the human past. A critical view of the popular culture and archaeology would hone critical thinking and logical reasoning, which are at the core of natural and social sciences. Students will recognize the importance of understanding the context of controversies concerning the archaeological past, and how real archaeology change misconceptions, idealizations, and fantasies related to historical events through scientific methods. Find out what archaeology really is!

Objectives of the Course

The student of this course will have a good:

1. Understanding of legends, myths, and frauds around archaeological topics.
2. Understanding of the role that popular media has in disseminating false ideas of what archaeology is.
3. Discerning what constitutes scientific research in archaeology and pseudoscientific archaeology
4. Practice to improve critical thinking to differentiate substantiated from unsubstantiated archaeological facts.
5. Understanding of why archaeological knowledge is popular and how this is related to cultural, political, and economic agendas.

Required Text

Feder, Kenneth L. 2012. *Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries: Science and Pseudoscience in Archaeology*. McGraw Hill Higher Education Publishers.

Assignments and Evaluation

Assignments and Evaluation

- 6 questionnaires (60%). These contain questions about readings and videos presented each class. Questionnaires are to be completed each week. A total of 6 questionnaires will be posted each Tuesday and have to be completed and submitted (printed) the following Tuesday (July 9,16,23,30, August 6,13). Include in a separate page the # of questionnaire and questions. Do not submit online or through email.
- 3 (20%) critiques. A maximum of 800 word (Arial font, 12, single spaced margins 2.5 cm top-bottom and 3 cm left-right) critique of a pseudo archaeology stories found in press articles, internet, magazines; to be submitted before August 2nd. Include in a separate page the article or text you are using for your critique (include date, name of author and source) 20% Do not submit online or thorough email.
- Final test (20%). To be submitted online (multiple choice and short answer test). It will be posted on August 15th needs to be submitted online August 16th.

Students are required to join ARKY327 wikispace to submit final test online. Students will receive an invitation to join the ARKY327 wikispace to upload their final test. Please use your last name, or your last and first name to become a member (do not use your student ID number).

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Please note: If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will make every attempt to schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is NO guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Grading System

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99

C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Schedule of Lectures, Films and Readings (one video of the many options will be screened, according to availability)

CLASS DATES	SUBJECT OR EVENT	READINGS
July 2	Lecture: Science, Pseudoscience, and Archaeology Video: Noah's Flood in Context: Legend or History?	Feder, Chapter 1
July 4	Lecture: Epistemology: How you know what you know? Video: Epistemology: What We Can Know FonD	Feder, Chapter 2 Questionnaire 1
July 9	Lecture: Piltdown Man and Human Evolution Video: In search of History: The Piltdown Man 45 min FonD Thinking in symbols 7 mint FonD	Feder, Chapter 4
July 11	Lecture: America's First People Video: Journey to 10,000 BC FonD Or Coming into America FonD 57 min	Feder, Chapter 5
July 16	Lecture: After the First Nations, but before Columbus Video: 1421: The Year China Discovered America? FonD Looking for One Beginning: The Fallacy of Diffusionism (51:00) FonD	Feder, Chapter 6
July 18	Lecture: Myth of the Moundbuilders Video: Cahokia, America's Lost City (youtube) or Who were the mound builders? First American civilization http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itCWu-m-23E 37 min youbute	Feder, Chapter 7

July 23	<p>Lecture: Atlantis the lost continent</p> <p>Video: Sinking Atlantis (Calgary Public Library DVD) Atlantis DVD NBC</p>	Feder, Chapter 8
July 25	<p>Lecture: Archaeology and Aliens</p> <p>Video: Ancient Aliens: The Maya conspiracy 45 min youtube</p>	Feder, Chapter 9
July 30	<p>Lecture: The Mysteries of Ancient Egypt</p> <p>Videos: The Sphinx in Context: Solving the Riddle. 51 min. FonD The first Egyptians 25 min FonD The pyramids 25 min FonD King Tutankhamun the Mystery Unsealed Calgary Public Library</p>	Feder, Chapter 10
August 1	<p>Lecture: Psychic Archaeology</p> <p>Video: DC Searching for Lost Worlds 1of5 Skull Wars The Missing Link youtube Legend of the Crystal Skulls youtube 45 min http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxEmA1rTQdk</p>	Feder, Chapter 11
August 6	<p>Lecture: Apocalypse Theories</p> <p>Video: UFOTV: Mayan Prophecies and Crop Circles 17 min http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_BhXE0giiE Illuminati 2013 End of the World Conspiracy Predictions youtube 1 hour http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39btKqMiqiQ</p>	
August 8	<p>Lecture: Old time religion, new age visions, and paranormal predictions</p> <p>Video: The Mystery of the Tomb of Jesus: The Quest for the Historical Christ (51:00) FonD Easter Island in Context: From Paradise to Calamity FonD</p>	Feder Chapter 12
August 13	<p>Lecture: Real mysteries of a veritable past</p> <p>Video: Stonehenge in Context: From Modern Myth to Ancient History FonD</p>	Feder, Chapter 13

ADDITIONAL CONTENT

Writing across the Curriculum

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and may use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

Academic Accommodation Policy

It is the students' responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403-220-6019. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about academic accommodations can be found at www.ucalgary.ca/access.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

The University of Calgary is committed to protecting the privacy of individuals who work and study at the University or who otherwise interact with the University in accordance with the standards set out in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Please refer to the following link for detailed information:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

Academic Misconduct

Academic dishonesty is an unacceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section of the University Calendar. Quite often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are:

- 1) Presenting another student's work as your own
- 2) Presenting an author's work or ideas as you own without proper referencing
- 3) Using work completed for another course

This activity will not be tolerated and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the University Calendar.

For detailed information on what constitutes academic misconduct, please refer to the following link: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Plagiarism

Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work as if it were the student's own work when it is not. Any ideas or materials taken from another source written, electronic, or oral must be fully and formally acknowledged. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- (a) The work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) Parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) The whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) A student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence. It is recognized that clause (d) does not prevent a graduate student incorporating work previously done by him or her in a thesis or dissertation.

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points

In the event of an emergency that requires evacuation, please refer to the following link to become familiar with the assembly points for the class:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Safewalk Information

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at (403) 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security Officer will accompany you to your campus destination.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

Student Union Vice President – Academic

Phone: (403) 220-3911

Email: suvpaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Representatives

Sarah Damberger arts1@su.ucalgary.ca

587-7777-5244

Hana Kadri arts2@su.ucalgary.ca

403-667-9220

Kelsy Norman arts3@su.ucalgary.ca

403-861-2624

Student Ombudsman's Office

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/>