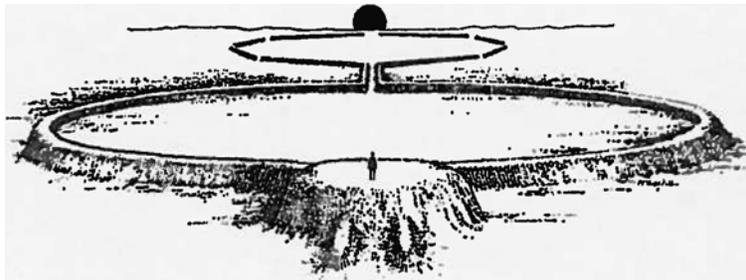


# Archaeological Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries

ARKY 327.02 Fall 2016 Syllabus  
ENA 103 MWF 9-9:50 AM  
Department of Anthropology and  
Archaeology  
Dr. Matthew Walls  
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 14:00-15:00 ES  
602D

TA: Cecilia Porter  
mazy.porter@ucalgazy.ca  
Office Hours: TBD



Ancient earthworks at Newark, Ohio. Image from:  
Lepper, B. (1998) Ancient Astronomers of the Ohio Valley. *Time/Ins* 15(1):2-11.

Overview: This course examines popular myths, hoaxes, and pseudoscientific interpretations of humanity's past. The course is built around three themes, which include: 1) the extent to which addressing hoaxes and frauds has shaped the development of archaeological thought, 2) reasons why 'the past' is such a socially-charged subject of contestation and imagination, and 3) how contemporary archaeologists approach key questions or mysteries about humanity's past. We start the course by examining several prominent hoaxes that challenged the early development of archaeology, and have played a role in epistemology - the process of how we come to know, verify and scrutinize archaeological knowledge. In the second part of the course, we examine the socially-charged nature of the past, by exploring the history of myths and assumptions about the deeper history of the Americas - from contestations surrounding the question of first peopling, to myths about ancient cultures of Moundbuilders or contact with the Old World. In the final part of this course, we compare popular interpretations of the archaeological record, ranging from alien interventions in the development of ancient civilizations to spiritual beliefs about sites such as Stonehenge. We will compare these with real archaeological mysteries, the key questions that drive contemporary research, and the methods that archaeologists use to approach these.

Format: The course will follow a lecture format, with opportunities for class discussion directed at topics. A lecture and readings schedule, along with course updates, will be available through Desire2Learn (D2L).

Course Text:

Feder, Kenneth (2013) *Frauds, Myths and Mysteries: Science and Pseudoscience in Archaeology*. 8th Edition, McGraw Hill, New York.  
Text available at the Bookstore

**Course Requirements/Marks:**

Bibliographic Exercise	10% (Sept. 26)
Midterm Exam #1	30% (Oct. 11)
Midterm Exam #2	30% (Nov. 9)
Final Exam	30% (Scheduled by Registrar)

**Bibliographic Exercise:** This is a short exercise based around engaging the primary literature in archaeology. Students will research and build an annotated bibliography of 5 peer reviewed references relevant to a key archaeological hoax, fraud or mystery. The format and rubrics for the assignment will be presented in class, and students will submit the assignment electronically via the appropriate dropbox in D2L (due date: TBD).

**Exams:** Exam questions will be drawn from the lecture, course readings and from films shown in class. Each exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Exams, including the final will be non-cumulative and in-class. Before each scheduled exam, we will hold a review session in the lecture immediately prior, and a review sheet will be posted to D2L.

**Grading Scheme:** We will be following the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology's standard scheme.

A+	100-94.9%	A	94.8-89.9%	A-	89.8-84.9%
B+	84.8-79.9%	B	79.8-74.9%	B-	74.8-70.9%
C+	70.8-66.9%	C	66.8-62.9%	C-	62.8-58.9%
D+	58.8-54.9%	D	54.8-49.9%	F	49.8% and below

**Course Schedule:** The readings list, key dates, and lecture schedule will be posted on D2L.

**Email Policy:** PLEASE include the word ARKY 327 in the title of any email messages. Please keep messages as concise as possible, and I will try to respond within 2 working days. If you are unable to attend the scheduled office hours, but would still like to see me in person, we can schedule an appointment.

**Academic Accommodations:**

The academic accommodations policy can be found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>.

It is the student's 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 that have not registered with the SAS are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about the academic accommodations can be found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access>.

**PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING**

Plagiarism: "to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own" (Webster's). Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will automatically result in a failing grade for the submission. Any student caught plagiarizing July also be subject to additional University sanctions. Students are expected to be familiar with the Arts Faculty's policy on intellectual honesty available at: <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/plagiarismcheating>

#### EMERGENCY EVACUATION

In the event that we need to evacuate the classroom due to an emergency, please note that the primary assembly point shall be Food Court in the Professional Faculties (PF) Bldg. FYI: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/home/evacuation-assembly-pojnts/assembly-points> .

#### USRI:

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys.

*The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology's FOIP (Freedom of Information and Privacy) policy requires all reports/examinations to be returned to students during class time or the instructor's office hours. Any term work not picked up will be placed in the Anthropology and Archaeology Office (ES620) for distribution. Any student not wishing to have their work placed in the office must make alternate arrangements with the course instructor early in the term.*