

## **ARKY 327.01: FRAUDS, MYTHS, AND MYSTERIES**

Spring Semester 2014

Instructor: Mr. Don H. Butler

Office: ES750

Email: dhbutler@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: Thursdays 3-5 pm or by appointment

Class: Admin. 140

Times: May 14 - June 26; Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00 - 2:45 PM

### **Course Description:**

What is archaeology... how about pseudoarchaeology? Who was the Piltdown Man, the Cardiff Giant, Kennewick Man, Anzick Boy, or Leif Ericson? Where and what are Atlantis, the Nazca Lines, and Lascaux? Who discovered North America? These are just a sample of the many fascinating questions asked and answered in *Archaeology 327.01, Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries*. By addressing such questions, students will gain the working knowledge necessary to assess the validity of claims made about the past. Separating fact from fiction, we will differentiate popular misinterpretations of the past from both archaeological and aboriginal realities. Central topics include distinguishing science from pseudoscience, early archaeological hoaxes, issues with the peopling of the new world, and the myths of the Moundbuilders, Atlantis, the Maya calendar, and ancient aliens. The course will conclude with several case studies of actual archaeological mysteries, including the search for the lost Franklin vessels in the Northwest Passage, Dorset and Norse contact in the Canadian Arctic, a prehistoric murder mystery in the Ötztal Alps, and Paleolithic cave paintings in Europe.

### **Key Student Achievements:**

- A) Students will sharpen critical thinking skills applicable to assessing knowledge claims across disciplines.
- B) Students will develop understandings of how misinformation is created, legitimized, and propagated.
- C) Students will gain basic understandings of the theories and methods archaeologists use to make sound interpretations about the past.

### **Required Text:**

Feder, Kenneth (2014). *Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries: Science and Pseudoscience in Archaeology*, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition. McGraw Hill Publishers.

### **Course Grading:**

- **Quiz 1: 25%** (Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>) Material covered up to the quiz; multiple choice.
- **Quiz 2: 25%** (Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>) Material covered after the first quiz; multiple choice.
- **Film Review 20%** (Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>) A 2 page (double spaced; ~500 word) assessment of a class film's claims about the past.
- **Final Exam: 30%** (TBA) The final exam will be a multiple choice exam that covers all course materials, including readings and lectures. This exam will be scheduled during the exam period.
- \*Note: A passing grade on any particular component is not essential to pass the entire course.

**Important Dates:**

First Quiz, Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>

Second Quiz, Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>

Film Review Due, Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> , First Day of Spring Classes

Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup> , Victoria Day, No Classes

Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup> , Last Day of Classes

Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup> , Final Exam Schedule Begins

**Tentative Schedule:*****Week 1***

What is Archaeology?

The Nuts and Bolts of Archaeological Theory and Method

Science, Pseudoscience, and Archaeology

Readings: Text, Chapters 1-2

***Week 2***

Early Archaeological Hoaxes

Who Discovered North America?

Early People in North America

Readings: Text, Chapters 3-6

***Week 3***

Myth of the Moundbuilders

Discovering Plato's Atlantis

Archives of Ancient Aliens

Readings: Text, Chapters 7-9

***Week 4***

Mummification, Pyramids, and other Egyptian Mysteries

Predictions from Psychic Archaeology

A Flood of New Age Archaeology

Readings: Text, Chapters 10-12

***Week 5***

Unsolved Mysteries

Doomsday and the Collapse of the Maya Civilization

Mysteries of the Canadian Arctic

Readings: Text, Chapter 13

***Week 6***

The Archaeology of King Author; Prehistoric Murder Mysteries

Monumental Architecture at Stonehenge and Easter Island

Paleolithic Cave Paintings of Europe

Readings: Text, Chapter 13

## Film Review Assignment

### Purpose

Everybody loves to review films, right? Just check out the Imdb comments section – urgh... everyone's a critic. The purpose of this assignment is to review and critically assess the claims of an in-class film. Specifically, you will have to use Karl Sagan's keys to identifying pseudoscience and Ken Feder's quick start points to discuss why or why not the claims of a particular film about the past are legit. These guys make a lot of points, you may not be able to cover them all, so you can focus on at least three of your choosing. Please be creative! Oh, and you can choose the film you would like to review from four key films I will show in class.

### Instructions

Length: 2 double spaced pages (~500 words)

Your assignment must be typed.

Your assignment is due at the end of class on June 19th.

\*\*\*\*\*LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED\*\*\*\*\*

Sections should include:

- **Synopsis** (Summary of the plot and goals of the film; what happens, what is the evidence presented?)
- **Critical Assessment** (Discussing faults and merits based on Sagan's and Feder's points)
- **Recommendations** (What legitimate evidence would have to be provided to strengthen the claims the film makes? Would you recommend this film to a friend, or is it garbage and should be buried in the desert?)

### Grading

This assignment is worth 20% of your final grade, but it will be marked out of 20 points. Here is how the point system is broken down:

- **5 pts. Synopsis** (e.g., Again, a summary of the plot and goals of the film; what happens, what evidence is presented?)
- **5 pts. Critical Assessment** (e.g., Clearly applying Sagan's and Feder's points; hammering points home, or supporting your arguments with evidence)
- **5 pts. Recommendations** (e.g., Again, what legitimate evidence would have to be provided to strengthen the claims of the film, or does the film make sound arguments? Would you recommend this film to a friend, or is it garbage and should be buried in the desert?)
- **5 pts. Overall Presentation** (e.g., Grammar, Spelling, Organization, Coherence, Clarity)

**Additional Content:**  
**Grading**

#	Symbol*	Start %*
1	F	0
2	D	50
3	C-	55
4	C	60
5	C+	65
6	B-	70
7	B	80
8	B+	88
9	A-	90
10	A	95
11	A+	100

**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**

The purpose of academic accommodation is to provide students with documented disabilities equal opportunity to master the essentials of a post-secondary education. Students with disabilities at the University of Calgary have met all admission requirements but may have done so with the use of accommodations. Similarly, they are expected to meet all academic and non-academic requirements. Adaptive technology and other academic accommodations do not relieve students of their responsibility to develop the essential skills and abilities expected of all students.

Please refer to the following web link for detailed information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/71>

**Disability Resource Centre Accommodations**

It is the responsibility of the student to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at (403) 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Students are also required to discuss their needs with the instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

## **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

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](mailto: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: [suvice@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvice@ucalgary.ca)

Student Union Faculty Representatives

Jarett Henry Arts Rep. [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca)

Zainab Malik Arts Rep. [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca)

Levi Nilson Arts Rep. [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca)

Maggie Pham Arts Rep. [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

Student Ombudsman's Office <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/>