

FRAUDS, MYTHS, AND MYSTERIES

MWF 4:00 - 4:50, SB 103
ARKY 327.01 - Winter 2014
Prof. Geoffrey McCafferty
Office ES 858, 220-6364
Email: mccaffer@ucalgary.ca
Office hours: Wed 1-3, Th 2-4

Were the Pyramids of Giza built by aliens? Did the Maya predict an apocalypse for 2012? Did the Lost Continent of Atlantis exist? Were the Nazca lines landing strips for extraterrestrial astronauts? In *Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries* we examine popular and fantastic interpretations of archaeological remains presented in the press and popular media. We analyze the logical flaws in pseudoscientific explanations and hone critical thinking skills. Find out what archaeology really is!

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Students will be responsible for readings in the text, as well as selected readings and documentary films to be shown in class. The course will be conducted as a lecture, with the expectation that students will participate in discussions of the films and readings. Requirements will include two midterm exams (25 pts each), five article/film summaries (2 pts each), and a final exam (40 pts), totaling 100 points. Students interested in writing a research paper, worth 25 pts, can substitute that for the second midterm exam. Individual grades will be based on total points received; it is not necessary for students to pass all exams and assignments to pass the class:

97-100 = A+	87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+
93-96 = A	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	60-66 = D
90-92 = A-	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	Less than 60 points = F

RESEARCH PAPERS

A short research paper (5-7 pages) may be substituted in place of the second mid-term exam. Paper topics should be cleared with the professor in advance, but may include such themes as cultures or cultural practices. A good place to look for topics is in the textbook, readings, or in anthropology/archaeology journals. A research paper should involve at least 5 published sources (not including the textbook), and at least one of those should be from a scholarly journal; Web sources may be (cautiously!) included in addition to the 5 published sources. Referencing format should follow the example found in *American Antiquity* (the Monaghan article uses this format).

IMPORTANT: Plagiarism, defined as copying more than 5 words in succession or using information without adequate citation (i.e., reference and page number) of the original source, is a violation of academic integrity. Research papers that plagiarize will receive a score of 0, and the student may be turned in to the Dean of Social Sciences (see page 49 of the U of Calgary Calendar).

PET PEAVES: #1 The past tense of “to lead” is “led,” “lead” as the past tense is incorrect. #2 Conjoining “it” + “is” results in “it’s,” “its” is the possessive of “it.” Misuse of these terms *may* result in a loss of points.

TEXTBOOK and READINGS:

Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries: Science and Pseudoscience in Archaeology, by Kenneth Feder. McGraw Hill Publishers.

Additional readings will be announced on Blackboard

SCHEDULE:

WEEK 1 (1/8-10): Introduction

Reading: Feder, chapter 1

WEEK 2 (1/13-17): Hacienda Plain exercise

Reading: Hacienda Plain exercise on Blackboard; Feder, chapter 2

WEEK 3 (1/20-24): Anatomy of an archaeological hoax

Reading: Feder, chapter 3

WEEK 4 (1/27-31): Dawson's Dawn Man

Reading: Feder, chapter 4

WEEK 5 (2/3-7): Who Discovered America?

Reading: Feder, chapter 5

WEEK 6 (2/10-14): Who's Next? After the Indians, Before Columbus

Reading: Feder, chapter 6

FIRST MIDTERM EXAM

WEEK 7 (2/17-21): READING WEEK

WEEK 8 (2/24-28): The Kensington Rune Stone

Reading: Kehoe 2005

WEEK 9 (3/3-7): The Myth of the Moundbuilders

Reading: Feder, chapter 7

WEEK 10 (3/10-14): Lost Continents

Reading: Feder, chapter 8

WEEK 11 (3/17-21): Ancient Astronauts

Reading: Feder, chapter 9

SECOND MIDTERM EXAM

WEEK 12 (3/24-28): Mysterious Egypt

Reading: Feder, chapter 10

WEEK 13 (3/31-4/4): Psychics and New Age Visions
Reading: Feder, chapters 11 and 12

WEEK 14 (4/7-11): Real Mysteries
Reading: Feder, chapter 13

WEEK 15 (4/14): REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM

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: suypaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Representatives
arts1@su.ucalgary.ca
arts2@su.ucalgary.ca
arts3@su.ucalgary.ca

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