

THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGY
ARKY327: ARCHAEOLOGY AND POPULAR CULTURE.
FALL 2017
M,W 2:00 – 3:15 CHC119

Dr. Peter Dawson
Department of Archaeology
pcdawson@ucalgary.ca
Office: ES840
Hours: Monday, 9am to noon.

Course Description

In this course, we will examine how linear narratives of the ancient world, human evolution, archaeologists, and archaeology are constructed through such media sources as films, Youtube, books, video games, websites, magazines and newspapers. We will also examine how archaeologists use digital media (computer modeling, virtual reality) and social media sites (Twitter, Facebook and the Blogosphere) to conduct research, as well as mobilize knowledge about their research to Indigenous communities and the general public. The course consists of two – one hour and fifteen-minute lectures a week, with the expectation that students will occasionally be asked to examine some course material (films, articles, Internet content) outside of class time.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Critically evaluate how the discipline of archaeology is depicted in popular media.
- Explain how and why different forms of media (i.e. film, video games, virtual reality, television) shape and occasionally distort our understanding of what the human past was actually like.
- Discuss how archaeologists are using visual media to analyze archaeological data and present it to the public.
- Explain how archaeologists use technology to digitally preserve archaeological sites, artifacts, and Indigenous knowledge, as well as the consequences of this.
- Critically assess how contemporary and past Indigenous cultures are (mis) represented in the media.

Grading:

Midterm Exam 1: 25% (October 11, 2017)

Midterm Exam 2: 25% (November 15, 2017)

Website Review: 10% (Due Last Day of Classes)

Final Exam: 40% (Registrar Scheduled. Date, time and location TBA)

Exams will consist of multiple choice questions with two short answer questions.

Textbook – required.

Clack, Timothy and Marcus Britain.

2007 Archaeology and the Media. Left Coast Press.

- Late papers and class assignments will be subject to a penalty of 5% per day. Any medical or family reasons cited for extensions or late papers will have to be supported by appropriate documents.
- Students need not pass each component of the course to receive a passing grade in this class.

* As a general rule, I use the following number grade/letter grade equivalencies:

Grade Scale:

97% = A+

90% = A

87% = A-

84% = B+

80% = B

77% = B-

72% = C+

65% = C

60% = C-

55% = D+

50% = D

Below = F

Topics:

Week 1: introduction to the Course: The McGuffin in Archaeology and Film.

Reading: Introduction: Archaeology and the Media (Course Text).

Reading: A Short History of Archaeological Communication (Course Text)

Week 2: The Past as Pageant: Portraying the Ancient World in Epic Hollywood Film.

Reading: Swords-and Scandals: Hollywood's Rome During the Depression (Desire2learn).

Reading: Ugly Americans in Togas: Imperial Anxiety in the Cold War Hollywood Epic (Desire2learn).

Reading: From Here to Antiquity: Mythical Setting and Modern Sufferings in Contemporary Hollywood's Historical Epics (Desire2learn)

Week 3: “Man Makes Himself”: Depicting Human Evolution in Film and Pictures.

Reading: Simians' Subjectivity and sociality: 2001: A Space Odyssey and two versions of Planet of the Apes (Desire2learn).

Readings: Human Evolution as Narrative: Have hero myths and folktales influenced our interpretations of the evolutionary past? (Desire2learn)

Week 4: Archaeologists in Film and Literature: Part 1 (Men)

Readings: An archaeological fashion show: How archaeologists dress and how they are portrayed in the media (Textbook).

Readings: The A Theme: the archaeologist as adventurer (Desire2learn).

Week 5: Archaeologists in Film and Literature: Part 2 (Women)

Readings: The D Theme: the archaeologist as detective (Desire2learn)

Readings: Pioneers in Palestine: The Women Excavators of El-Wad Cave, 1929 (Desire2learn).

Week 6: “One of the great dangers of archaeology, not to life and limb, although that DOES sometimes happen.....”: Archaeology and Reality Television.

Reading: Faking it: Why Truth is so important for TV Archaeology (Textbook).

Reading: Great Britain: Time Team's Digging Detectives (Desire2learn).

WEEK 7: Portraying the Past in Art.

Readings: Orientalism in Nineteenth-Century Art

(http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/euor/hd_euor.htm)

Readings: Orientalist Structures and Restructures: In Orientalism by Edward Said (Desire2learn).

Readings: Archaeological Representations: The Visual Conventions for the Construction of Knowledge (Desire2learn).

WEEK 8: The Past as Playground: Archaeology and the Past in Video Games.

Reading: The Past as Playground (Textbook)

Reading: “Breaking the fourth wall: 3D virtual worlds as tools for knowledge repatriation in archaeology (Desire2learn).

WEEK 9: Digital Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Informatics.

Reading: At the edge of the lens: photography, graphical constructions, and cinematography (Desire2learn)

Reading: Computers, learning and teaching in archaeology: life past and present on the screen (Desire2learn).

WEEK 10: Through the Lens Backwards: Archaeologists Making Films About Archaeology.

Readings: 'Worldwonders' and 'Wonderworlds': A Festival of Archaeological Film (Textbook).

Week 11: Portraying Indigenous People in Film and Other Media:

Readings: The Life and Times of the Ever Changing Hollywood Indian (Desire2learn).

Readings: Indigenous Peoples in Cyberspace. (Desire2learn).

Week 12: The Archaeology of Media: Exploring Obsolescent Technologies.

Readings: Embedded Memories and the Mechanics of Obsolescent Technologies. (Desire2learn).

Week 13: Course Wrap Up.

Readings: Romancing the Stones: Archaeology in Popular Cinema (Desire2learn)

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 will also be subject to additional University sanctions. Students are expected to be familiar with the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology’s policy on intellectual honesty

DEFERRED EXAMS:

A student who is absent from a test for legitimate reasons must discuss an alternative course of action with the instructor. The instructor at their discretion may transfer the percentage weight for the test to the final examination, if there is a final examination in the course, set another test, etc. An instructor will normally make this decision on the basis of verbal information provided by the student. In the event that an instructor feels that they cannot judge the veracity of the information provided, Students must be aware that they are responsible for payment of any charge associated with the medical assessment and documentation as this service falls outside the realm of services provided by the Provincial Health Care Plan. Deferral of the final exam requires Registrar approval.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the instructor of this course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Calgary is a strong signal of each student’s individual academic achievements. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. Non-academic integrity also constitutes an important component of this program.

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

All suspected cases of academic and non-academic misconduct will be investigated following procedures outlined in the University Calendar. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behavior or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

Where there is a criminal act involved in plagiarism, cheating or other academic misconduct, e.g., theft (taking another student's paper from their possession, or from the possession of a faculty member without permission), breaking and entering (forcibly entering an office to gain access to papers, grades or records), forgery, personation and conspiracy (impersonating another student by agreement and writing their paper) and other such offences under the Criminal Code of Canada, the University may take legal advice on the appropriate response and, where appropriate, refer the matter to the police, in addition to or in substitution for any action taken under these regulations by the University

TEACHING EVALUATIONS / USRI (Universal Student Ratings of Instruction)

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. **Your responses make a difference, please participate!** Website:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri/>

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, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Support, part of the Student Success Centre, can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance

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>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: 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>

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 alternative arrangements with the course instructor early in the term.

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? Arts Students' Centre
The Faculty of Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance that they require.
In addition to housing the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs and the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning, the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- program advising
- the Faculty's Co-operative Education Program
- the Arts and Science Honours Academy
- the Faculty's Interdisciplinary Programs
- a Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403.220.3580

Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/

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.

Contacts for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca

arts2@su.ucalgary.ca

arts3@su.ucalgary.ca

arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Ombudsman's office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/>

