

ARKY327: ARCHAEOLOGY AND POPULAR CULTURE.

Dr. Peter Dawson
Department of Archaeology
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Office: ES820
Hours: Monday: 1 to 4pm

Course Description

In this course, we will examine how linear narratives are constructed of the ancient world, human evolution, archaeologists, and archaeology 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 disseminate information to indigenous communities and the general public. The course consists of three 50-minute lectures a week, with the expectation that students will occasionally be asked to examine some course material (films, you tube videos) outside of class time.

Grading:

Midterm Exam 1: 25% (Feb.14, 2014)
Midterm Exam 2: 25% (March 19, 2014)
Film Review: 10% (April 14, 2014)
Final Exam: 40% (TBA)

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 (Blackboard).

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

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

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 (Blackboard).

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

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 (Blackboard).

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

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

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

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 (Blackboard).

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 (Blackboard).

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

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 (Blackboard).

WEEK 9: Digital Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Informatics.

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

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

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 (Blackboard).

Readings: Indigenous Peoples in Cyberspace. (Blackboard).

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

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

Week 13: Course Wrap Up.

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

ADDITIONAL CONTENT OF THE COURSE OUTLINE

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/secretariat/system/files/foip%20overview.pdf>

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>

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.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

Student Union Vice President – Academic

Phone: (403) 220-3911

Email: suvpaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Representative

Phone: (403) 220-3913

Email: socilscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Student Ombudsman's Office

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/students-rights.html>

