

LOST TRIBES AND SUNKEN CONTINENTS

ANT2149 Fall 2011, TUR L011

Dr. Michael Moseley

Teaching Assistant: Ashley Sharpe; Email: asharpe@ufl.edu

TA Office Hours: Mon. & Tues. 3:00-4:30

Turlington B352 (basement – Archaeology Lab)

The syllabus is subject to change.

Updates to the syllabus and other important information can be found on the Sakai website.

Was God an astronaut? Did space travelers establish ancient civilization? Were the Mound Builders of North America descendants of the lost tribes of Israel? Are Aztec and Inca pyramids related to those of dynastic Egypt?

This course is a critical examination of why society asks such questions, and how archaeologists go about answering them. The focus is upon long distance contact and diffusion between alien people and cultures, why contact is fancifully perceived, how it in fact occurs, and what evidence survives.

Lecture topics include:

- The Nature of Scientific Inquiry
- Why Lost Tribes, Sunken Continents, and Chariots of the Gods
- Invention of the “Indian”
- Critical Thinking and the Scientific Method
- Assessing Diffusion and Contact
- The Moundbuilder Myth
- Pyramid Builders
- The Bearded Gods
- Eskimo and Norsemen
- Great Zimbabwe
- Conquests and Colonization
- Castaways and Gods from Outer Space

Required texts:

The course packet and all texts are available at Orange and Blue Textbooks.

- 1) Frauds, Myths and Mysteries (7th edition) – Kenneth Feder
- 2) Archaeology: A Very Short Introduction (any edition) – Paul Bahn
- 3) Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court (any edition) – Mark Twain *
- 4) Typee (any edition) – Herman Melville *
- 5) Course Packet

*Note: These two titles should be read with less attention to detail than should the other required material.

Requirements:

- 1) Read texts, course packet, & reserve readings
- 2) Weekly Quizzes
- 3) Two Mid-Term Examinations
- 4) One Final Examination

Grading:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| 1) Weekly Quizzes | 10% |
| 2) Two Mid-Term exams | 50% |
| 3) Final exam | <u>40%</u> |
| | 100 |

Grading Scale:

100- 93.0%	A	82.9-80.0%	B-	69.9-67.0%	D+
92.9-90.0%	A-	79.9-77.0%	C+	66.9-62.0%	D
89.9-87.0%	B+	76.9-72.0%	C	61.9-60.0%	D-
86.9-83.0%	B	71.9-70.0%	C-	59.9 or below	E

Lost Tribes and Sunken Continents Schedule of Lectures and Readings

This schedule is subject to change. You should prepare for class each week by reading the assigned material listed for that day (e.g. read the assignment listed under September 12th before class on the 12th).

Lectures and Reading Material for Exam I:**August 22**

Lecture: Introduction – Scientific Inquiry

Film: Mysteries of Peru

Readings:

Feder – chapter 1

Bahn – chapters 1-3

August 29

Lecture: Why Lost Tribes, Sunken Continents, and Chariots of the Gods?

Film: First Contact

Readings:

Feder – Chapters: 2. "Epistemology: How You Know What You Know"

AND Ch 8. "Lost: One Continent"

Packet – "Why Lost Tribes" (Moseley)

September 5 – NO CLASS – Labor Day**September 12**

Lecture: Invention of the "Indian"

Film: Myths and Moundbuilders

Readings:

Feder – chapter 5, "Who Discovered America?"

Bahn – chapters 4-5

Packet – "White Man's Indian" (Berkhofer)

September 19

Lecture: Critical Thinking and the Scientific Method/Diffusion

Film: Nova: Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial

Readings:

Feder – chapter 3, AND pages 146-160 of chapter 6 "Who's Next?"

Bahn – chapters 6-10

Packet – "A Field Guide to Critical Thinking" (Lett)

"The Persistent Popularity of the Paranormal" (Lett)

"Assessing Diffusion" (Moseley)

"Strangers in the Forest" (Osborne)

September 26

Lecture: The Moundbuilder Myth

Film: Red Paint People

Readings:

Feder – chapter 7, "The Myth of the Moundbuilders"

Packet – "Fort Ancient: Citadel or Coliseum?" (Essenpreis & Moseley)

"The Moundbuilder Myth" (Moseley)

Twain – begin reading Connecticut Yankee*

October 3 – FIRST MIDTERM EXAM

Lectures and Reading Material for Exam II:

* Read materials marked with a * with attention to the concepts demonstrated in the book rather than to the details of the story.

** Read materials marked with ** critically; do they follow the scientific method?

October 10

Lecture: Pyramids and Mummies

Film: National Geographic: Pyramids of Egypt

Readings:

Feder – chapter 10 "Mysterious Egypt" AND pages 340-347 of chapter 13, "Real Mysteries of a Veritable Past"

Twain – finish reading Connecticut Yankee*

October 17

Lecture: Diffusion and The Bearded Gods

Film: Nova: Secrets of Easter Island

Readings:

Packet – "The Bearded Gods Speak" (Heyerdahl)**

"Symbolic Archaeology on Easter Island" (Van Tilberg)

October 24

Lecture: Eskimo and Norsemen

Film: Nanook of the North

Readings:

Feder – Rest of Ch. 6

Packet – "History of Norse Greenland" (Kleivan)

"1491" (Mann)

October 31

Lecture: 2012 and Other Doomsday Forecasts

Film: Scenes from 2012

Readings: TBA

November 7

Lecture: Great Zimbabwe (possible guest speaker: Dr. Steven Brandt)

Film: Great Zimbabwe

Readings:

Packet – “Great Zimbabwe” (Hall)

“Zimbabwe: The Dark Continent Myth” (Robbins)

November 14 – SECOND EXAM**New Material for the Final Exam (final exam is cumulative):**

* Read materials marked with a * with attention to the concepts demonstrated in the book rather than to the details of the story.

November 21

Lecture: Conquests and Colonization

Film: Inca: Secrets of the Ancestors

Readings:

“Tiwanaku and Its Hinterland” (Kolata)

Melville – begin reading Typee*

November 28 – All extra credit due in class.

Lecture: Disasters

Film: Chasing El Nino

Readings:

“Peru’s Five Hundred Year Earthquake” (Oliver-Smith)

December 5

Lecture: Castaways & Gods from Outer Space

Film: The Lost Tribe: Tasaday

Readings:

Feder – Chapter 9, “Prehistoric ET”, AND pages 347-360 of chapter 13

“Real Mysteries...”

Packet – “Stonehenge Astronomy: Anatomy of a Modern Myth” (Chippendale)

“The Nazca Lines: Patterns in the Desert” (Aveni)

Melville – finish reading Typee*

December 7 or 8 – Final Exam Review Session: Place and time TBA**December 12– FINAL EXAM, Monday 3:00-5:00 pm, Turlington L011**

Policies and Procedures:

- **LATENESS:** Arriving late to class is disruptive to the professor and your fellow classmates. Please be on time.

- **ABSENCES:** Only excused absences (medical emergency, illness, etc.) are permitted. A valid official form (such as a doctor's note) must be presented in order for the absence to be considered excused. If you know you are going to be absent *for a valid reason*, please attempt to notify the T.A. *in advance*.
- **CELL PHONES:** Please silence your cell phone before coming to class. No calls, apps, or texting!
- **LAPTOPS:** Note taking on a laptop is permitted as long as the laptop is used for class purposes only. If you are caught using your laptop for activities unrelated to this course, you will be asked not to bring your laptop to class any more.
- **TALKING:** Please do not distract your fellow students by talking during class.
- **FOOD:** Please no food or drink in class.
- **ACCOMODATIONS:** Students with documented disabilities should notify the professor or T.A. as soon as possible or contact the DRC at 392-8565.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Cheating is a serious offense and will be dealt with by the UF Student Honor Court. Be aware that cheating includes collaboration on work, such as an online quiz or test, which is supposed to be completed by the individual student.