

# LOST TRIBES AND SUNKEN CONTINENTS

ANT 2149 FALL 2012

M 10E1 TUR L005

Dr. Michael Moseley

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*The syllabus is subject to change.*

*Updates to the syllabus and other important information can be found on the 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** (6<sup>th</sup> 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:**

**Grading:**

1) Read Texts, Course Packet, & Reserve Readings	1) Weekly Quizzes	10%
2) Weekly Quizzes	2) Two Mid-Term exams	50%
3) Two Mid-Term Examinations	3) Final exam	40%
4) One Final Examination		100

## **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 August 27<sup>th</sup> **before** class on the 27<sup>th</sup>).

### **Lectures and Reading Material for Exam I:**

#### **August 27**

Lecture: *Introduction – Scientific Inquiry*

Film: *Mysteries of Peru*

Readings:

**Feder – Chapter 1**

**Bahn – Chapters 1-3**

#### **September 3 – No Classes – Labor Day**

#### **September 10**

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

Readings:

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

**AND**

**Ch 8 "Lost: One Continent"**

**Course Packet – "Why Lost Tribes" (Moseley)**

#### **September 17**

Lecture: *Invention of the "Indian"*

Film: *Myths and Moundbuilders*

Readings:

**Feder – Chapter 5, "Who Discovered America?"**

**Bahn – Chapters 4-5**

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

#### **September 24**

Lecture: *Critical Thinking and the Scientific Method/Diffusion*

Film: *Nova: Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial*

Readings:

**Feder – Chapter 3, Pages 146-160 of Chapter 6 "Who's Next?",**

**Bahn – Chapters 6-10**

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

**"The Persistent Popularity of the Paranormal" (Lett)**

**"Assessing Diffusion" (Moseley)**

**"Strangers in the Forest" (Osborne)**

## **October 1**

Lecture: *The Moundbuilder Myth*

Film: Red Paint People

Readings:

**Feder – Chapter 7, "The Myth of the Moundbuilders"**  
**Course Packet – "Fort Ancient: Citadel or Coliseum?"**  
**(Essenpreis & Moseley)**  
**"The Moundbuilder Myth" (Moseley)**  
**Twain – Begin Reading Connecticut Yankee\***

**TBA – Midterm I. Review**

## **October 8 – MIDTERM EXAM I.**

### **Lectures and Reading Material for Exam II:**

\* Read materials marked with an \* 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 15**

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 – Complete Reading of Connecticut Yankee\***

## **October 22**

Lecture: *Diffusion and The Bearded Gods*

Film: Nova: Secrets of Easter Island

Readings:

**Course Packet – "The Bearded Gods Speak" (Heyerdahl)\*\***  
**"Symbolic Archaeology on Easter Island" (Van Tilberg)**

## **October 29**

Lecture: *Eskimo and Norsemen*

Film: Nanook of the North

Readings:

**Feder – Complete Reading of of Ch. 6**  
**Course Packet – "History of Norse Greenland" (Kleivan)**  
**"1491" (Mann)**

## **November 5**

Lecture: *Disasters, 2012 and Other Doomsday Forecasts*

Film: Chasing El Nino, Scenes from the film, **2012**

Readings:

**Course Packet-"Peru's Five Hundred Year Earthquake"**  
**(Oliver-Smith)**

**November 9-10 -No Classes- Homecoming**

**November 12- No Classes- Veterans' Day**

**November 19**

Lecture: *Great Zimbabwe* ( Guest Lecturer : Dr. Steven Brandt or TBA)

Film: Great Zimbabwe

Readings:

**Course Packet – “Great Zimbabwe” (Hall)**

**“Zimbabwe: The Dark Continent Myth” (Robbins)**

***TBA – Midterm Exam II. Review***

**November 21-24- No Classes- Thanksgiving Holiday**

**November 26 – MIDTERM EXAM II.**

**Lecture and Reading Material for the Final Exam**

***(Final Exam is Cumulative):***

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

**December 3**

Lecture: *Conquests and Colonization*

Film: Inca: Secrets of the Ancestors

Readings:

**Course Packet-“Tiwanaku and Its Hinterland” (Kolata)**

**Melville – Begin Reading Typee\***

**December 10 – All extra credit due in class.**

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 – Complete Reading of Typee\***

***TBA- Final Review***

**December 14– FINAL EXAM**

**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.
- **ACCOMMODATIONS:** 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.