

LOST TRIBES AND SUNKEN CONTINENTS

ANT2149 Fall 2006

Dr. Michael Moseley

The syllabus is subject to change.

Updates to the syllabus and other important information can be found on the website.
Website: <http://web.clas.ufl.edu/users/moseley/ltonline/losttribes.html> (case sensitive)

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 (4th 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

Grading:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1) Weekly Quizzes | 10% |
| 2) Two Mid-Term exams | |

50%
40%

3) Two Mid-Term Examinations
4) One Final examination

3) Final exam

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 September 11th before class on the 11th).

Lectures and Reading Material for Exam I:**August 28**

Lecture: Introduction – Scientific Inquiry

Film: Mysteries of Peru

Readings:

Feder – chapter 1

Bahn – chapters 1-3

September 4 – NO CLASS – Labor Day**September 11**

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

Film: The Search for Atlantis

Readings:

Feder – chapter 2 and 8

Packet – “Why Lost Tribes” (Moseley)

September 18

Lecture: Invention of the “Indian”

Film: Red Paint People

Readings:

Feder – chapter 5

Bahn – chapters 4-5

Packet – “White Man’s Indian” (Berkhofer)

September 25

Lecture: Critical Thinking and the Scientific Method

Film: Nova: Vikings in North America

Readings:

Feder – pages 133-146 of chapter 6, pages 252-254 of chapter 10

Bahn – chapters 6-7

Packet – “A Field Guide to Critical Thinking” (Lett)

“The Persistent Popularity of the Paranormal” (Lett)

October 2

Lecture: Assessing Diffusion and Contact

Film: First Contact

Readings:

Feder – chapter 3

Bahn – chapters 8-10

Packet – “Assessing Diffusion” (Moseley)

“Strangers in the Forest” (Osborne)

October ? – Review I: TBA

October 9 – 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 16

Lecture: The Moundbuilder Myth

Film: Odyssey: Myths and Moundbuilders

Readings:

Feder – chapter 7

Packet – “Fort Ancient: Citadel or Coliseum?” (Essenpreis & Moseley)
“The Moundbuilder Myth” (Moseley)

Twain – begin reading Connecticut Yankee*

October 23

Lecture: Pyramid Builders

Film: National Geographic: Pyramids of Egypt

Readings:

Feder – pages 106-133 of chapter 6

Twain – finish reading Connecticut Yankee*

October 30

Lecture: The Bearded Gods

Film: Nova: Secrets of Easter Island

Readings:

Packet – “The Bearded Gods Speak” (Heyerdahl)**

“Symbolic Archaeology on Easter Island” (Van Tilberg)

November 6

Lecture: Eskimo and Norsemen

Film: Nanook of the North

Readings:

Packet – “History of Norse Greenland” (Kleivan)

“1491” (Mann)

November ? – Review II: TBA

November 13 – **SECOND MIDTERM 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 20

Lecture: Traditional Architecture: Ingenuity, Independent Invention and Diffusion

Film: Great Zimbabwe

Readings:

Packet – “Great Zimbabwe” (Hall)

“Zimbabwe: The Dark Continent Myth” (Robbins)

Melville – begin reading Typee*

November 27

Lecture: Conquests and Colonization

Film: Death March of de Soto

Readings:

Packet – “Tiwanaku and Its Hinterland” (Kolata)

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

Melville – finish reading Typee*

December 4 – All extra credit due in class.

Lecture: Castaways & Gods from Outer Space

Film: The Lost Tribe: Tasaday

Readings:

Feder – chapter 9, pages 299-309 of chapter 12

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

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

December 6 – Review III: time TBA

December 11 – FINAL EXAM: Monday, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Weimar Hall 1064