

LOST TRIBES AND SUNKEN CONTINENTS

ANT 2149 FALL 2014

Instructor: Dr. Michael Moseley

Time: Monday, Periods 10-E1 (5:10-8:10 PM)

Location: TUR L005

Teaching Assistant: Mark Donop, Email: donopm@ufl.edu

TA Office Hours: Room B352, Hours: Monday 2-5:00 PM

The syllabus is subject to change.

Updates to the syllabus and other important information can be found on the E-Learning course 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** (6th, 7th, or 8th 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% |

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 25th **before** class on the 25th).

***Note:** The Feder Chapters and page numbers listed here only correspond to the 8th edition. If you have an earlier edition, please refer to the chapter titles (they are the same for every edition).

Lectures and Reading Material for Exam I:**August 25**

Lecture: *Introduction – Scientific Inquiry*

Film: *Mysteries of Peru*

Readings:

Feder – Chapter 1, "Science and Pseudoscience"

Bahn – Chapters 1-3

September 1 – No Classes (Labor Day)**September 8**

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

Film: *First Contact*

Readings:

Feder – Chapter 2, "Epistemology: How Know What You Know" AND
Chapter 8, "Lost: One Continent"

Course Packet – "Why Lost Tribes" (Moseley)

Video: "Stuff" <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvgN5gCuLac>

September 15

Lecture: *Invention of the "Indian"*

Film: *Conquistadors - The Conquest of the Aztecs*

Readings:

Feder – Chapter 5, "Who Discovered America?"

Bahn – Chapters 4-5

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

September 22

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

Film: Nova: Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial

Readings:

Feder – Chapter 3, "Anatomy of an Archaeological Hoax"

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)

September 29

Lecture: *The Moundbuilder Myth*

Film: Myths and Moundbuilders

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 6 – 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 13

Lecture: *Pyramids and Mummies*

Film: Engineering an Empire: Ancient Egypt

Readings:

Feder – Chapter 10, "Mysterious Egypt" AND

Chapter 13 pages 330-340, "Real Mysteries of a Veritable Past" (Maya section)

Twain – Complete Reading of Connecticut Yankee*

October 20

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 27

Lecture: *Eskimo and Norsemen*

Film: Nanook of the North

Readings:

Feder – Chapter 6, "Who's Next?"

Course Packet – "History of Norse Greenland" (Kleivan)
"1491" (Mann)

November 3

Lecture: *Conquests and Colonization*

Film: Inca: Secrets of the Ancestors

Readings:

Course Packet – "Tiwanaku and Its Hinterland" (Kolata)

Melville – Begin Reading Typee*

November 10

Lecture: *Disasters, 2012 and Other Doomsday Forecasts*

Film: Chasing El Niño, Scenes from the film, 2012

Readings:

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

November 17

Lecture: TBA

TBA – Midterm Exam II - Review

November 24 – 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 1 – All extra credit due in class.

Lecture: *Castaways & Gods from Outer Space*

Film: The Lost Tribe: Tasaday

Readings:

Feder – Chapter 9, "Prehistoric ET" AND

Chapter 13 pages 340-352, "Real Mysteries..." (Stonehenge section)

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 16, 12:30-2:30 PM – 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.