ANTH 381 Fantastic Archaeology: Frauds, Myths and Mysteries  
Fall 2015 TR 9:30-10:45 HON 155

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Bettina Arnold  
OFFICE: SAB 229 (Archaeology Lab)  
OFFICE HOURS: T 11:00-1:00 or by appointment  
TEL: x4175  
E-MAIL: barnold@uwm.edu

COURSE SYLLABUS & REQUIRED READINGS: Available on D2L


Films and Other Online Sources:  
Additional video links will be posted on D2L and via e-mail throughout the semester.

Course Description and Objectives:  
Ever wonder why anyone would go into archaeology given the kind of job hazards that archaeologists seem to face? Dodging Uzi-toting bad guys and reanimated mummies makes a position on Wall Street seem tame by comparison. If this job description sounds bogus, it's because the Hollywood version of archaeology and the real McCoy have only one thing in common: they make the past look like a cool place to be interested in. Real archaeologists do occasionally dodge bullets, but the bad guys are usually looters, and there's nary an extraterrestrial to be seen. Spend a semester finding out what real archaeologists do and compare Indiana Jones version to some of the awesome discoveries that are being made these days. You'll find that not only is truth stranger than fiction, but by the end of the semester you'll be able to:

- Identify the various stake holders and their respective positions on the way the archaeological past is recovered, perceived and valued
- Understand the symbiosis between the study of the archaeological past and the politics of contemporary societies
- Comprehend current debates regarding the definition and handling of cultural patrimony
- Critically analyze and be able to deconstruct arguments related to the presentation and interpretation of the archaeological past.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and participation: 15% of the grade.

Weekly Summaries of 4 Readings/Week & 4 Discussion Questions: 30% of the grade. These will be handed in each Thursday after class but you MUST bring them to class each Tuesday.

One short paper (5 pages minimum): 15% of the grade.

15 page minimum research paper: 40% of the grade. A short research proposal, with preliminary bibliography, and a draft of the final paper will be submitted for comment and revision.

Extra Credit: Three points possible for attendance at three archaeology-related talks (see http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/ArchLab/ for list of on-campus lectures this semester).

Workload Statement: This class meets once a week for a total of 3 hours x 15 weeks = 45 hours of class time. You should expect to spend 5 hours per week (some weeks less, some more) over the course of the semester on required readings = 75 hours and another 30 hours reading and
writing the summaries and short paper (undergraduates). All told, this class should take no more than 120 hours of your time, but this is an estimate and may vary depending on how well you are able to read and absorb information and whether you attend the class regularly.

Grade Scale
Final grades will be based on the percentage of total possible points earned throughout the semester. Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

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Reading Assignments

Week 1  
**Science and Pseudoscience**  
**Textbook:** Feder Chapter 1  
**Reading**  

Week 2  
**How Do You Know What You Know?**  
**Textbook:** Feder Chapter 2  
**Reading**  

Week 3  
**Hoaxes, Folk Archaeology and Other Epistemological Conundrums**  
**Textbook:** Feder Chapters 3 and 4  
**Reading**  

Week 4  
"America BC"  
**Textbook:** Feder Chapters 5 and 6  
**Reading**  

**Week 5**

**Myth of the Moundbuilders**

**Textbook:** Feder Chapter 7

**Reading**


**Week 6**

**The Atlantis Caper**

**Textbook:** Feder Chapter 8

**Reading**


**Week 7**

**Aliens: 1 Humanity: 0**

**Textbook:** Feder Chapter 9

**Reading**

Week 8

**Egyptomania**

**Textbook:** Feder Chapter 10

**Reading**


Week 9

**Old-time Religion, New Age Visions**

**Textbook:** Feder Chapter 12


Week 10

**Archaeomythology**

**Textbook:** Feder Chapter 11

**Reading**


Week 11

**The Real Deal I**

**Reading**

**Textbook:** Feder Chapter 13

**D2L:** Aveni, Anthony 2003 Archaeoastronomy in the ancient

Week 12 Reading

**The Real Deal II**


Week 13 Reading

**The Curse of Indiana Jones: Archaeology & Nationalism**

Thanksgiving: No class Thursday November 26!


Week 14 Reading

**Archaeology and the Media: Beyond Lara Croft**

Romancing the stones: archaeology in popular cinema.  

**Week 15**

**21st Century: Crisis or Opportunity?**


**Final Paper Due Tuesday December 15 by 4:00pm!!**

**Weekly Summaries & Discussion Questions**

Produce two pages (minimum) summarizing and critically engaging with each of the four assigned articles for each week. Generate four discussion questions based on the articles (can be one question for each article or any combination); these can be at the end of the assignment or following each article summary. These critical summaries/discussion questions must be typed and you should have them ready on Tuesday each week when called upon to provide a question for the group. You will hand in the summaries each Thursday.

**Paper Topics**

The Short & Final Papers may expand on one of the themes covered by the class or a related topic, subject to approval by the instructor.

**Potential Paper Topics**

- **“Alien Intervention” Kensington Runestone**
- Mayan Astronauts
- Nasca Lines
- Nazi Archaeology
- Vikings in America
- Atlantis
- Stonehenge
- Noah’s Ark
- Moundbuilders
- Piltdown
- Erich von Däniken
- “King Tut’s Curse”
- Ark of the Covenant at Tara
- Barry Fell
We will track media coverage of archaeological topics in the local or national papers, magazines television (network and cable), and the internet. Please bring clippings or advance notice of TV programs to class, or send URLs to me at barnold@uwm.edu or to anth-381@uwm.edu.

**Paper Format**

1. Short paper **must** be a **minimum of 5 pages** long; final paper a **minimum of 15 pages**.

2. Papers **must** be typed; font should be 12 point. **Paginate all pages beginning with Page 2!**

3. Papers **must** be double spaced. (I also need to be able to write comments in the margins, so make sure these are 1” all around, no more, no less.)

4. You are expected to explore the assigned topic further in written form. This includes a) citations from the reading and b) original ideas/critiques, backed up by cogent arguments.

5. You must cite **at least** THREE sources in constructing your argument for the short paper (at least one of these must be a source you have identified yourself), at least FIFTEEN sources for the final paper.

6. If you choose a specific example or case study from the readings to discuss, you will still be expected to refer to relevant reading not directly associated with the topic you have chosen. This is meant to ensure that you get more than just a one-sided perspective on what are very complex problems/concepts.

7. When citing sources within the text, the following rules apply:

   Sources which are part of the assigned reading should consist of the author's last name (first initial if there are two authors being cited in the paper with the same last name) followed by the year of the publication, a colon and the page number(s). (This is the standard procedure in anthropological publications). Quotation marks should be used where appropriate, as in the examples below.

   Example #1: "The moon is made of green cheese" (McDonald 1989:123).
   Example #2: According to Williams, the moon is made of fried green tomatoes (1988:19-23).

8. You must include a bibliography with full references at the end of the paper. Use the syllabus for citations from the assigned readings and choose a format from one of the readings on which to base citations for additional final paper sources. If in doubt about a source, check with me!

Check with me if you have any other questions.

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**: Student academic misconduct procedures are specified in Chapter UWS 14 and the UWM implementation provisions (Faculty Document 1686) as follows: [http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Acad_Aff/policy/academicmisconduct.html](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Acad_Aff/policy/academicmisconduct.html)

**UWM WRITING CENTER**

The Writing Center (Curtin 382) welcomes writers from any discipline, at all skill levels, inexperienced through advanced, freshmen through graduate students. No matter where students are in a task, whether still exploring a reading, brainstorming, drafting or revising, they can benefit from talking to one of the Writing Center's well-qualified and trained tutors.

Make appointments online 24/7: www.writingcenter.uwm.edu, call 229-4339 or walk in.