

# ANTH 4

## Vanished Peoples and Lost Civilizations

Instructor: Dr. Lee Panich  
Office: O'Connor 313  
Phone: 551-3000 x4205  
Email: lpanich@scu.edu  
Office Hours: Wednesday 2:00-5:00 pm

Class time: MWF 11:45 am – 12:50 pm  
Location: Sobrato 19

This course examines how archaeology has been interpreted in popular culture. Ideas and assumptions found in movies and other media will be evaluated in light of current archaeological theory and data. Students will learn how to evaluate popular ideas about the human past.

### **Course Objectives**

Objective 1: To understand how archaeology, archaeologists, and the past have been presented in the media and explore what this tells us about our own culture.

Objective 2: To understand how new technologies, scientific enquiry, and critical thinking can constantly change our understanding of the past.

Objective 3: To understand how to critically evaluate and use popular culture.

***Anthropology 4 satisfies the Science, Technology, and Society core requirement as defined by Santa Clara University. These objectives include:***

#### **STS Course Objective #1**

Students will demonstrate a more comprehensive appreciation of the complex relationship between science and/or technology and society.

#### **STS Course Objective #2**

Students will acquire a better understanding of the methods and process of scientific inquiry and how science and technology advance through such processes.

#### **STS Course Objective #3**

Students will develop and employ critical and independent thinking skills in the analysis of the social impact of science and technology, and how science and technology are themselves impacted by the needs and demands of society.

#### ***Anthropology 4 also counts toward the STS undergraduate minor and the Values in Science & Technology Pathway***

If you declare a Pathway in this area you may use a representative piece of work from this course in the Pathway Portfolio you will complete during your senior year. Recommendation: Please keep electronic copies of your work. See: <http://www.scu.edu/sts/Education/students/minor.cfm> (STS Minor) or <http://www.scu.edu/sts/Education/students/pathway.cfm> (I\_PTHVST Pathway).

**Academic Misconduct:** The University's policy on academic honesty will be observed in this class. <http://www.scu.edu/studentlife/resources/academicintegrity/index.cfm>

**Disability Accommodation Policy:** To request academic accommodations for a disability, students must contact Disability Resources located in The Drahnann Center in Benson, room 214, (408) 554-4111; TTY (408) 554-5445. Students must provide documentation of a disability to Disability Resources prior to receiving accommodations.

## Required Text:

Feder, Kenneth. 2011. *Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries: Science and Pseudoscience in Archaeology*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. McGraw Hill, New York.

## REQUIREMENTS

**Readings:** Students are required to complete assigned readings **prior to the date** they are assigned. Impromptu discussions over the readings will take place throughout the course. If you are unprepared for these discussions then participation points will be deducted from your final point total.

**Participation (15%):** Participation is critical for achieving a high grade in this course. You are expected to take part in discussions and to ask interesting questions during lectures and other class activities. Many of the readings present arguments that are hotly debated in the field of archaeology. We will discuss the many sides to these arguments, and you are expected to ask thoughtful questions about these readings. Participation points are not free points added subjectively at the end of the semester. I will note your participation and add points accordingly.

**Archaeology in the news:** Each week, we will discuss archaeology as it appears in popular news sources. Please bring stories that you find in local or international news sources or via other popular venues to share with the class. Your participation in this activity will be noted in your participation points. You must turn in a total of FIVE articles over the course of the quarter. Archaeology in the news discussions will occur on Mondays (or on Wednesdays when there is a Monday holiday). Articles must be turned in during class time.

**Quizzes (40%):** A total of five reading/lecture quizzes will address the readings for the week and may ask you to compare and contrast with previously discussed material. **Quizzes may not be made up.**

**Research Presentation and Paper (30%):** Students, working in groups of four, will present their findings from their research to the rest of the class (approx. 10 minutes). These presentations will be formal presentations of both the scientific and popular views of the concept. This is your chance to teach us something about popular culture and archaeology. Presentations will be graded on organization, creativity, quality of information, and succinct summation of the interesting aspects of the concept that you have explored. Presentations are during the last week of class. You will turn in a CD with your presentation (preferably in Powerpoint or pdf format), as well as an 8-10 page research paper that includes at least 10 academic/scholarly research references *in addition to* popular culture or media references.

### Possible Paper Topics

Look through the book and think about what might interest you. If you are interested in art you might wish to review how Paleolithic or Moche art has been interpreted at different times. If you are in Religious studies you might explore the social and political impact of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Those interested in astronomy might explore scientific vs. popular interpretations of the Nazca Lines, Stonehenge, or other archaeo-astronomical sites. Those interested in health and depopulation might explore how the demise of Native Americans due to European diseases during the 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> c has played a role in shaping their current identities. No matter what topic is selected **all topics must be approved** by the instructor.

**Film Discussions (15%):** We will watch a number of films in this course, and discussions of these films will take place during the following class period. Each student will help to lead ONE film discussion (to be assigned by the instructor). The film discussion assignment includes two tasks:

1. You will prepare FIVE questions regarding the film. These questions will be informed by your research on the topic of the film. On the day of the film discussion, you will hand in a sheet with your discussion questions and a list of TWO scholarly articles or websites *and* TWO popular media articles or websites about the topic in question. For each website or article, you must provide a brief (2-3 sentence) description and evaluation of the source.

2. You will use your knowledge of the topic and the questions you prepared to help lead class discussion of the film. The discussion should last 20-30 minutes. You may want to consider meeting briefly with the other students who are assigned to the same film to help structure your discussion. *Students who are not leading discussion are expected to actively participate in film discussions, which will count toward the overall participation grade (see above).*

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. You will not receive participation points if you miss lectures, discussions, or student presentations. **Students are required to attend all lectures, discussions and films. Readings are to be completed before the class period on which they are scheduled.**

**Classroom protocol:** Attendance is required to all classes. All written assignments must be typed and handed to me during the class session in which they are due. Except where noted below, assignments will not be accepted over email. Scores for late assignments will be penalized at 5% for each day after the assignment due date. Make-up quizzes are only allowed in extreme circumstances with written documentation from proper authority. You must notify me in advance and make arrangements to take the quiz soon before or after the scheduled time.

**Statement on plagiarism:** Many students are not clear about what it means to plagiarize when writing a paper. Plagiarism is the use of someone else’s work without giving appropriate credit. This means that when you take a fact, an idea, or a passage of writing (a quotation) from the work of another author, you must provide appropriate citation. Not ALL ideas need to be cited: ideas that are in the public domain (California is a state in the USA. The first astronaut walked on the moon in July, 1969), well-established generic ideas (plants consume carbon dioxide and emit oxygen). If you use a fact, idea, or quotation from your reading, you must reference your source. If you are presenting information in any assignment you must provide appropriate citation or you will receive zero credit on the assignment. If you have any doubt about specifics please talk to me. Penalties for academic dishonest at this university include receiving an ‘F’ grade in the class and possible suspension or dismissal from the university.

**Achieving your best academic performance:** The information and concepts presented in this class can be challenging. To achieve the most out of this class, complete all readings before the class in which the topics are discussed. Ask thoughtful questions. Visit office hours if you would like to discuss particular topics in more detail or would like additional references. Form study groups with other students to review for quizzes or to discuss paper topics and presentation strategies.

## COURSE OUTLINE

Class date	Activity/topic	Reading assignment	Other assignments
<b>Week 1</b>			
3 January	Introduction, What is Archaeology?		
5 January	Science and Pseudoscience	Feder Chap 1	
7 January	-NO CLASS MEETING-		

Class date	Activity/topic	Reading assignment	Other assignments
<b>Week 2</b>			
10 January	How do we know what we know? Archaeological evidence	Feder Chap 2	Popular article discussion
12 January	<b>Film:</b> <i>Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark</i>		
14 January	<b>Film:</b> <i>Indiana Jones, Cont'd</i>		
<b>Week 3</b>			
17 January	-MLK HOLIDAY – NO CLASS MEETING-		
19 January	<i>Indiana Jones</i> , discussion Frauds: Cardiff Giant and Piltdown Man	Feder Chap 3 & 4	Film discussion; Popular article discussion
21 January	Atlantis	Feder Chap 8	Quiz 1
<b>Week 4</b>			
24 January	Who were the first Americans?	Feder Chap 5	Popular article discussion
26 January	Who Discovered America? (Norse, Chinese, Spanish, etc.)	Feder Chap 6	
28 January	First Americans, Cont'd		Quiz 2
<b>Week 5</b>			
31 January	<b>Film:</b> <i>1421: The Year China Discovered the World</i>		Popular article discussion
2 February	<b>Film:</b> <i>1421, Cont'd</i>		
4 February	<i>1421</i> , discussion		Film discussion
<b>Week 6</b>			
7 February	Who built all the mounds?	Feder Chap 7	Popular article discussion
9 February	<b>Film:</b> <i>Ancient America: Mound Builders: Edgar Cayce's Forgotten Legacy (2009)</i>		
11 February	<i>Mound Builders</i> , discussion		Film Discussion; Quiz 3
<b>Week 7</b>			
14 February	Ancient Aliens?	Feder Chap 9	Popular article discussion
16 February	<b>Film:</b> <i>Chariots of the Gods</i>		
18 February	<i>Chariots</i> , discussion		Film discussion
<b>Week 8</b>			
21 February	-PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAY – NO CLASS MEETING-		
23 February	Mysterious Egypt	Feder Chap 10	Popular article discussion
25 February	New Age and Archaeology	Feder Chap 12	Quiz 4
<b>Week 9</b>			
28 February	Real Archaeological Mysteries...	Feder Chap 13	Popular article discussion
2 March	<b>Film:</b> <i>The Iceman</i>		
4 March	<i>The Iceman</i> , discussion		Film discussion, Quiz 5
<b>Week 10</b>			
7 March	Student Presentations		FINAL presentation
9 March	Student Presentations		FINAL presentation
11 March	-NO CLASS MEETING- PAPER DUE BY 5:00 PM*		

**\*FINAL PAPERS DUE MARCH 11\*** Papers will be accepted by email or they can be placed in Prof. Panich's mailbox in the Anthropology office, 329 O'Connor.