

Eastern Oregon University Course Syllabus

Number of Course:

ANTH 340

Name of Course:

Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries

Catalog Description:

A course designed to examine the scientific validity of questionable theories about the human past, and to explore and apply the techniques of scientific inquiry generally. Topics include the Piltdown Man hoax, ancient astronauts, the lost continent of Atlantis, and other pseudoscientific claims.

Credit Hours:

2

Required Texts or Suggested Materials:

Link to the EOU Bookstore: [Eastern Oregon University Bookstore](#)

Prerequisites:

Student must have at least sophomore standing to register for this course.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the difference(s) between science and pseudoscience.
- Discuss the general process of "doing science" and the difference(s) between scientific inquiry and other ways of "knowing" things (for example, religious faith).
- Debate/discuss with others the strength and validity of the evidence presented to support various hypotheses about the human past.
- Discuss and demonstrate an understanding of the different explanations, both scientific and non-scientific, offered for "mysteries" pertaining to the human past.
- Intelligently discuss the different case studies presented.
- Please feel free to express yourself in class. Ask questions if you do not understand or need more explanation. Argue (intelligently) with the instructor and each other -- human knowledge is not set in concrete, it is changing and evolving all the time. We should be able to get some good class discussions going, and to share our many perspectives and experiences. So, if you have a different view or interpretation of events, speak up!

Course Requirements:

- Attendance at all sessions of weekend college and adequate participation
- Pre-reading of text(s) and appropriate pre-assignments prior to classroom sessions
- Completion of take-home exams and/or project(s) after classroom sessions

Grading Policies:

- 90–100 = A
- 80–89.9 = B
- 70–79.9 = C
- 60–69.9 = D
- ≤59.9 = F

Means of Assessment:

Evaluation and assessment based on participation and preparedness during classroom sessions (approximately 25%) and satisfactory completion of final take-home project, essay(s), or exam within specified time period following the weekend session (75%).

Brief Outline of Course:

Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries is a course designed to help students learn to examine and evaluate the scientific validity of theories about the human past, and to explore and apply the techniques of scientific inquiry generally. Archaeology, physical anthropology, and ethnohistory are often misunderstood by the general public and sometimes have been misrepresented and distorted in the press and other media. Topics to be explored in the class include the Piltdown Man hoax, ancient astronauts, the lost continent of Atlantis, evolution versus creationism, the peopling of the Americas, and the Shroud of Turin.

General Education Category and Outcomes:

Social Sciences

University Writing Requirement Outcomes:

N/A

Writing Center Statements:

The EOU Writing Center provides a place — physical or virtual — where every EOU student can find an interested, responsive reader. Writing tutorials are free of charge for EOU undergraduate and graduate students and are available for writing at any course level and for writing resumes, job letters, and graduate applications. For drop-in hours or to schedule in-person, synchronous online, or asynchronous online tutoring, please visit the EOU Writing Center: [Writing Center – Eastern Oregon University](#).

Classroom Decorum:

Instruction is the most valuable function at Eastern Oregon University. To assure that all students gain full benefit of instruction, the University insists that appropriate classroom decorum be maintained. Minimum elements of appropriate classroom decorum include: punctuality, courtesy, civility, purposefulness, and integrity.

Academic Misconduct Policy:

Eastern Oregon University places a high value upon the integrity of its student scholars. Any student found responsible for an act of academic misconduct (including but not limited to cheating, unauthorized collaboration, fabrication, facilitation, plagiarism or tampering) may be subject to having his or her grade reduced in the course in question, being placed on probation or suspended from the University, or a combination of these.

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities Policy:

Any student who feels they may need accommodation for any type of disability must contact the Disability Services Office in Loso Hall, Room 233. Phone: 541-962-3081.

Disclaimer:

This standard syllabus provides only general information on the course. For those enrolled in the course a detailed syllabus will be provided by the Instructor at the beginning of the term. Please keep in mind that not all courses are offered every year.

Syllabus Prepared By:

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Date:

4/10