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Office: Sturm Hall 146-S  
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Course Objectives
This course examines selected mysteries and puzzles about the human past that have intrigued professional archaeologists and the lay public alike. We will explore a variety of claims about the world's most spectacular archaeological phenomena in an effort to sort out hard facts, pure fantasies, and genuine mysteries. The course examines where the more outrageous explanations of mysterious phenomena come from, and investigates the continuing popularity of such explanations. Although dealing with a fun subject matter—the “greatest hits”, as it were, of humankind’s archaeological record—the course has a deadly serious thrust. That is, it considers the virtues and limitations of scientific method for understanding our world, and the larger social causes and consequences of human belief systems.

Course Requirements
1. class attendance and participation.
2. completion of a take-home midterm exam and several short in-class assignments.
3. research paper on a topic of your choice.

Required Readings
There is no required textbook. Required readings for the course will either be distributed in class or placed on Reserve in Penrose Library. There is a “Lab Fee” of $5 to cover the cost of the readings distributed in class. You are expected to have the readings fully digested for the days they are due to be discussed.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mar 25</td>
<td>Introduction and rationale for the course; Surveying cult beliefs at DU.</td>
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<td>Mar 27</td>
<td>Demarcating Science and pseudoscience; The social and cultural context of science.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Apr  1</td>
<td>The story of Atlantis.</td>
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<td>Apr  3</td>
<td>Locating Atlantis: Santorini, Bimini, Antarctica.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Apr  8</td>
<td>Atlantis in the Andes.</td>
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<td>Apr 10</td>
<td>What are the chances that Atlantis—or another lost continent—exists?</td>
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Apr 15  Lost Primates: Searching for Bigfoot.

Apr 17  What are the chances that Bigfoot exists?  The field of Cryptozoology.

Apr 22  Erich von Daniken, Extraterrestrials, and the evolution of culture on Earth.  
**VIDEO:** “Chariots of the Gods”
**DISTRIBUTE MID-TERM EXAM.**

Apr 24  Deconstructing von Daniken.

Apr 29  Mysteries of Easter Island.

May 1  A von Daniken Miscellany.
**MID-TERM EXAM IS DUE.**

May 6  The Zecharia Sitchin Chronicles; von Daniken Returns.

May 8  Is there Intelligent Life in the Universe?

May 13  Quest for the Lost Civilization: Graham Hancock’s Hyper-diffusionism.  
**VIDEO:** “Quest for the Lost Civilization”
**RESEARCH PAPER OUTLINE IS DUE.**

May 15  Quest for the Lost Civilization, continued.

May 20  Ivan Van Sertima, Afrocentrism, and New World colonization.

May 22  Wandering Jews, Druids, and Phoenicians in North America.

May 27  NO CLASS—Memorial Day

May 29  What's fact and what's fiction in the study of lost tribes?  Why are cult beliefs so popular?  Why won't some go away?

June 3  Summary; Reprise of main themes; Veritable mysteries of a real past.

June 7  **RESEARCH PAPERS ARE DUE**
Anthropology 2006

LOST TRIBES AND SUNKEN CONTINENTS
Spring 2002

Complete Reading List

**General**
Feder, K.

**Epistemology**
Gould, S.J.
Shermer, M.
1997 *Why People Believe Weird Things*. Freeman, New York. (Chapter entitled “I Am Therefore I Think”).

**Atlantis**
Ceaser, M.
Donnelly, I.
Flem-Ath, R. and R.
Hancock, G.
Hope, M.
Joseph, F.
McKusick, M. and E. Shinn

Zink, D.

**Bigfoot**
Krantz, G.

Napier, J.

**Extraterrestrial Life**
Mayr, E.

Shostak, S. and A. Wolfendale

Sitchin, Z.

von Daniken, E.

**Lost Civilization**
- [http://jcolavito.tripod.com/lostcivilizations/id3.html](http://jcolavito.tripod.com/lostcivilizations/id3.html)
- [http://members.aol.com/davidpb4/sphinx1.html](http://members.aol.com/davidpb4/sphinx1.html)

**Afrocentrism and New World Civilizations**
De Montellano, B.
Iowa Press, Iowa City.

Hamilton, P.

**Cult Archaeology, Science, and Society**

Goode, E.

Sagan, C.