

***Alien Depictions in Anthropology***  
**ANTH 3811-WDF**

**Winter 2017**

**Instructor:**

**Dr. Diana Christopher**

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**Course Outline**

Walking the fine line between science and fiction, guided by anthropology, we will examine interpretations of artifacts and archaeological structures as depictions of ancient “out of this world” technological intelligence. We will discuss contradicting hypothesis and positions and examine variety of anthropological and scientific sources build and collected during the last ten thousand years. We will search for an answer to the ultimate question about the origins of life and civilization on our planet. Our goal in this course is to consider many possibilities, keeping an open mind. We will use a perspective informed by anthropology and consider the alien depictions in relation to the belief systems of different cultures, societies and individual tribes. As a background we will spend some time on the basic concepts, history and branches of anthropology as well as on the different types of scientific inquiry and technology developments.

**Required Reading Materials**

1. **Von Daniken, E.** Chariots of the Gods. Berkley Books, New York, 1980
2. **Michael, G.** Extraterrestrial Aliens. Friends, Foes, or Just Curious? Skeptic Magazine. Vol.16, No 3, 2011, p.46-53
3. **Backe, E. L.** Aliens Among Us: Extraterrestrial Anthropology  
<https://thegeekanthropologist.com/2015/03/20/extraterrestrial-anthropology/>
4. **White, C.** Ancient Alien Evidence Examined. Skeptic Magazine, Vol 18, No 4, 2013

**Recommended Reading Materials**

1. **Battaglia, Debbora (Ed.)** E.T. Culture: Anthropology in Outerspaces. Durham: Duke University Press, 2005

2. **Von Daniken, E.** Evidence of the Gods. New Page Books, New Jersey, 2013
3. **Kenyon D. Ed.** Forbidden History. Bear & Company, New York, 2005

**NB. Please note that there will be additional electronic sources added each week.**

### **Course Policies:**

1. **Academic Dishonesty** includes plagiarism and cheating, it is a serious offence and carries penalties varying from failure in an assignment to suspension from the University. Please be informed that I will be using Turnitin plagiarism tool when evaluating your work.
2. For the **discussions** you have to first make an original submission, before you can read other student's postings. In total you need to have one original posting and at least one reply. Please read the guidelines for the discussions, and in your discussion posting try to answer to the best of your abilities the questions asked. Avoid general statements. Share personal experiences and personal opinion, but as a conclusion and as an example, not as a basic statement. Always start with the theoretical background or with analysis of the article or the problem in focus.
3. As you can see from the **marking/assessment scheme** in order to complete the course successfully you will have to participate in three discussions (each will count for 10% of your final mark), write three quizzes/tests (each responsible for 10% of the final mark), prepare a mid term assignment (equal to final 15%) and a final assignment equivalent to  $\frac{1}{4}$  or 25% of your final grade.
4. Remember, online learning requires **discipline and consistency**. A music teacher once told me that after doing something 28 times it becomes a habit. Create and follow good online learning habits and you will complete successfully this course.
5. **Clarity in communication is very important** when working with people, when learning, or writing. If you need some additional information, send me an e-mail. During the week I will respond to your e-mail messages within 24 hours, during the weekend it could be 48 hours.

### **Marking Scheme:**

Discussions (3)	30%
Tests/Quizzes (3)	30%
Mid Term Assignment	15%
Final Assignment	25%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Date	Learning Plans	Modules
Week 1	Monday Jan 9- Sunday Jan 15	Course Introduction	Anthropology, Culture & Religion
Week 2	Monday Jan 16- Sunday Jan 22	Quiz	Myths and Magic
Week 3	Monday Jan 23- Sunday Jan 29	Reading	The Scientific Method & Technology Development
Week 4	Monday Jan 30- Sunday Feb 5	Quiz	The Alien Idea in Anthropology
Week 5	Monday Feb 6- Sunday Feb 12	Discussion	Alien Depictions in the Creation Myth
Week 6	Monday Feb 13- Sunday Feb 19	Mid Term Assignment	Artistic Interpretations of the Alien Agenda
Week 6	Monday Feb 20- Sunday Feb 26	READING WEEK	
Week 7	Monday Feb 27- Sunday March 5	Discussion	Shamans, Religions, Atheism and the Alien Premise
Week 8	Monday March 6- Sunday March 12	Quiz	Well Known Archaeological Structures and the Alien Connection
Week 9	Monday March 13- Sunday March 19	Discussion	Other Ancient Structures & the Alien Interpretations
Week 10	Monday March 20- Sunday March 26	Revision	Progress & Human Development – “The Truth Is Out There”
Week 11	Monday March 27- Wednesday April 5	Final Assignment	
	<b>APRIL 7</b>	<b>COURSE ENDS</b>	

**ENJOY learning and discovering new worlds of knowledge and mystery through the prism of Anthropology and Science.**