

Archy 469: Archaeology and the Popular Media
Syllabus
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This course will address the various ways in which the (popular) media presents and explores archaeological issues, from glorification of archaeological adventure and treasure hunting in the cinema to attempts at educating the public about ‘topical’ issues, *e.g.* the current vogue usage of the term ‘hobbit’ to describe and reference *Homo floresiensis*. Through the exploration (debunking) of these issues of representation (and misrepresentation) students will be exposed to some of the basic tenets of modern scientific archaeology.

	Lecture Topic	Assignment
Week 1	Introduction → Common misconceptions	Essay: Critique of <i>Raiders of the Lost Ark</i>
Week 2	The Perpetuation of Fraud → Piltdown Man	Essay: Motivation of the Protagonists
Week 3	The Politics of Archaeology → Nazi Germany → Peopling of the Americas	Essay: Explore similarities
Week 4	Caught in the Crosshairs → Kennewick Man	Essay: Opinion of court rulings
Week 5	Public Archaeology → Community Involvement	Essay: Research Paper
Week 6	Biblical Archaeology → Noah’s Ark → Shroud of Turin	Essay: ‘Archaeological Vacation Tours’
Week 7	Archaeology and Television → Atlantis → ‘Rome’	Essay: Proposal for new TV show
Week 8	Separating Fact from Fiction → Stonehenge → The Egyptians → Hobbits	Essay: Myth Debunking
Week 9	Current Events	Poster Presentations

Text: *Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries: Science and Pseudoscience in Archaeology*, **K. Feder**.