



UFO Exco

Spring 2006 Syllabus

Course Number: EXCO-355-01
Class meeting time: Tuesdays 7:30-9 PM
Class meeting location: Science Center A155
Instructor: Aaron Clark
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The subject of UFOs and aliens is one that has fascinated people for a long time. It is usually brushed aside by mainstream science while the media use it for entertainment purposes. Most of what the public knows about UFOs is from movies and the occasional thirty-second sound clip on the evening news. Over the last fifty years many researchers have collected lots of important data. We will look at this information to get a better perspective on the UFO and alien question. Topics to be covered will include Ancient UFOs, The Roswell Incident, Men in Black, Alien Abductions, Crop Circles and more.

Class Dynamics: In each class I will talk about the specific topics for that class period. In some classes there will be videos presented. There will be class discussions based on the lectures and videos. All students are expected to participate in the discussions.

Assignments: Readings: There will be assigned chapters from the text that you will be required to read for the following class.
Quizzes: There will be four quizzes that will cover the information discussed in the previous week's class.
Final Reports: Each student will select a topic and present a written and oral report at the end of the semester. Written reports should be 4-5 pages. Plan to talk about your paper for about 5 minutes in class.

Materials: Text: Dolan, Richard M., UFO's and the National Security State, Keyhole Publishing 2002

Content Outline:

Week #1: 2/14
Introductions: Instructor and student backgrounds
Class Discussion: Why are you interested in UFO's? What are your preconceived notions regarding UFO's and Extraterrestrial life? What do you hope to learn in this class?
Lecture: Review the syllabus and answer questions
Assignment: none

Week #2: 2/21
Lecture & Discussion: UFO's in ancient cultures. There will be particular emphasis on Sumerian literature and art. In what ways does this challenge our view of history? What were the Foo Fighters and Ghost Rockets?
Assignment: Bring \$15 for the book

Week #3: 2/28
Movie: Roswell
Class Discussion: What happened in Roswell, New Mexico in July 1947? Did the US government adequately explain this event? Why does this event keep showing up in the news media and entertainment? Why is this the beginning of modern UFOlogy?
Assignment: Read 20-30, 42-50

Week #4 3/7	<p>Quiz #1</p> <p>Lecture & Discussion: Post-Roswell: National Security Act of 1947, MJ-12, first video of UFO, Forrestal's death. UFO investigations: Project Grudge and Project Blue Book, Major UFO "flaps" in the 50's & 60's. Men in Black (MIB)</p> <p>Assignment: Read pg. 55-58, 60-62, 85-86, 90-93, 96-100, 104-108</p>
Week #5 3/14	<p>Lecture & Discussion: "Contactees" George Adamski and Billy Meier, video evidence and multiple witness sightings. How does photographic or video evidence help? What about multiple witnesses?</p> <p>Assignment: Bring in a UFO related article from any website or other source of your choice to discuss in class.</p>
Week #6 3/21	<p>Quiz #2</p> <p>Lecture & Discussion: Alien Abduction: Betty & Barney Hill. Travis Walton, Whitley Streiber and other abduction cases, Alien abduction research by Oberlin alumni</p> <p>Alien implants. Is there something "real" about the abduction phenomena or can it be simply explained psychologically? Is there any evidence linking UFO's to alleged abductions? What kinds of proof are given to back up these stories?</p> <p>Assignment: Read pg. 250-257 & Patterns of UFO Abductions handout</p>
3/28	SPRING BREAK WEEK
Week #7 4/4	<p>Lecture & Discussion: Reported UFO crashes. Keksburg, Shag Harbor, Bentwaters, Socorro. What really happened at these events? Were they really UFO's or just misidentified objects?</p> <p>Assignment: Read pg. 262-264, 273-275, 293-296, 337-338</p>
4/8	SPECIAL LECTURE – Richard Dolan – Science Center West Lecture Hall 4-6pm UFOs, National Security, and You: What's Going On and Why It Matters
Week #8 4/11	<p>Lecture & Discussion: UFO's and National Security. Area 51. NASA & UFO's Alien Technology? Col. Phil Corso. What do you think the government knows now? If they do have information should it remain secret?</p> <p>Assignment: look at website http://www.presidentialufo.com/</p>
Week #9 4/18	<p>Quiz #3</p> <p>Lecture & Discussion: Crop Circles and Cattle Mutilation; are they related to UFO's? If so, what could be possible reasons for these actions? Can they be explained as natural phenomena?</p> <p>Assignment: Read pg. 298-301, 336-337, 375-378, look at website http://www.cropcircleconnector.com</p>
Week #10 4/25	<p>Movie: The Disclosure Project part I</p> <p>Lecture & Discussion: Testimony from Disclosure Project. What are your thoughts about this testimony? Why has the media largely ignored this?</p> <p>Assignment: Look at website http://www.disclosureproject.org website</p>
Week #11 5/2	<p>Movie: The Disclosure Project part II</p> <p>Lecture & Discussion: Testimony from Disclosure Project. Do you think there is a cover-up? How does this relate to current events?</p> <p>Assignment: Decide on final report topics.</p>
Week #12 5/9	Final Reports: Student presentations on selected topics.