

Archaeology in the Media
ANTH 107
Due in Week 7

For this assignment you may select either of the following options and prepare a critique of how archaeology is presented in the media. By critique, I mean a careful analysis of their accuracy of reporting, any spoken or unspoken assumptions, their findings, etc. based on the instruction thus far received in this course. A goal here is to separate fact from fiction and hype. Doing a critique does not mean simply doing a criticism, but instead critically thinking about the content and style of the way archaeology is presented to the general public.

Option 1: Archaeology in the News

In a 2017 to 2020 newspaper or popular magazine, find feature length article dealing with an archaeological discovery or controversy. Be sure to include a summary of the information presented in the article as well as a critical assessment of the claims made. Try to figure out why the article was published when it was and evaluate the significance of the claims made. You should not use articles in *Natural History*, *Scientific American*, *Archaeology*, *American Archaeology*, or related publications unless the articles are reported by someone who is not a professional anthropologist. The biographical blurb accompanying the article will often tell you this one way or the other, but if you are unsure, please ask me. The goal is for you to see how the public (not the discipline itself) perceives, understands, and reports on archaeology.

Option 2: Archaeology in Film

Critically evaluate a documentary on an archaeological topic. You can find documentaries using the Discovery Channel, History Channel and PBS or find a video documentary at the [Healey Library](#). In your evaluation you should include the main point of the documentary, note how dramatic effect is used, and evaluate the integrity of the information presented in the documentary.

The Write-Up

Your critique should be a 2-3-page double spaced analysis of your article or film and include the following:

- The citation information of the article or documentary you are reviewing. You can find information on proper citation methods at the [Healey Library](#).
- Your evaluation of the information presented, how it is presented, and whether or not it is credible.
- A discussion of any hidden agendas or biases.
- What audiences are being targeted?