

# Minnesota State University Moorhead

## ANTH 329: The Uses of the Past

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

An examination of how the past is interpreted to satisfy ideological, political and social needs of groups. Ethical responsibilities related to interpreting the past are combined with understanding the importance of being fair-minded toward others' versions of the past. MnTC Goal 9.

### B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 01/12/2009 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Review popular interpretations of the past based on religious beliefs, political ideas, ethnic sensibilities and other social factors, including versions of antiquity inspired by the Bible, the American Moundbuilder epic, the Ahnenerbe movement in Nazi Germany, Zimbabwe, the Kensington Stone, the Ebla controversy, and the America B.C. movement.
2. Compare the methods by which professional scholars (in history and archaeology) construct their versions of the past and the "mythistorical" components of every historical effort.
3. Deal with archaeological materials and interpretations, along with historical sources.
4. Examine the way the past is "constructed" by interest groups, with sometimes fabulous and sometimes unfortunate results.

### D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Be able to critically examine popular reconstructions of the past in a social science perspective
2. Recognize the ethical issues involved in the interpretation of people's past
3. Be able to recognize the motivations in a variety of reconstructions of the past

### E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
2. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
3. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.

### F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

### G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted