

San José State University
History Department
209-01: COLLOQUIUM IN ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL EUROPE, SPRING 2019
HISTORICAL FORGERY AND FALSIFICATION

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Jonathan P. Roth
Office Location:	Business Tower (BT) 561
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Office Hours:	Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00 to 4:00
Class Days/Time:	Mondays 6:00 to 8:45
Classroom:	Dudley Moorhead Hall (DMH) 167
Prerequisites:	Graduate Standing or instructor consent

Canvas and MySJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on Canvas Learning Management System at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](http://my.sjsu.edu) at <http://my.sjsu.edu> (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates.

Course Description

This seminar will introduce graduate students to the faking and forging of ancient artifacts and manuscripts. We will begin with a study of the phenomenon of forgery and the tools, both philological and archaeological, of detecting it. We will discuss the history of forgery detection and its role in the development of scholarship, but the course will focus on the theory and practice of fakes and forgeries, as well as their effect on the historical record. The course will include examples around the world. The course will involve oral and written reports and is intended to improve students' research skills and give them experience in presenting and defending material both in written and oral form. Students are expected to participate in critical discussion throughout the course.

Required Texts

1. Barr, Marianna and Gershon Ben-Shakhar. *Science, Pseudo-Science, Non-sense and Critical Thinking*. Routledge, 2018. ISBN-13: 978-1138301030
2. Feder, Kenneth L.. *Frauds, Myths and Mysteries: Science and Pseudoscience in Archaeology*. Oxford University Press, 2017 ISBN: 9780190629656

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3. Fritze, Ronald. *Invented Knowledge: False History, Faked Science and Pseudo-Religions*. Reaktion Books; 2 edition, 2011. ISBN-13: 978-1861898173
4. Kelker, Nancy and Karen Bruhns. *Faking Ancient Mesoamerica*. Routledge, 2009. ISBN-13: 978-1598741490.
5. Lapatin, Kenneth. *Mysteries of the Snake Goddess: Art, Desire and the Forging of History*. Da Capo Press, 2003. ISBN-13: 978-0306813283
6. Muscarella, Oscar, *The Lie Became Great: The Forgery of Ancient Near Eastern Culture*, Styx, 2000.
7. Tattersall, Ian. *Hoax: A History of Deception: 5,000 Years of Fakes, Forgeries and Fallacies*. Black Dog & Leventhal, 2018. ISBN-13: 978-0316503723

Library Liaison

The History Department Library Liaison is Nyle Monday (Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu). Contact him for help with any library assignments in your History classes. His telephone number is (408) 808-2041.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Each student will write a 1-2 page book report on each of the seven (7) assigned monographs. Together, these writing assignments will be worth 25% of the final grade. In addition each student will be chose a research topic for discussion and present a minimum 15 to 20 minute oral presentation on the subject. The student should be prepared to answer questions on the subject from the professor and other students. Secondary literature, including journal articles, should be used in preparing this presentation. The presentation will be worth 15% of the final grade. You will prepare an annotated bibliography of your research topic which will be worth 10% of the final grade. The paper you write on your research topic will be worth 25% of the final grade. The final examination will make up 25% of the final grade.

Course Goals and Course Learning Objectives (CLOs)

After successfully completing the course, students will be able to

1. explain the various definitions of forgery, fakes and falsification
2. identify various types of forgeries and fakes
3. summarize the ways in which history is falsified with authentic evidence
4. spell out the different ways in which historians discover forgeries, fakes and falsification
5. analyze primary and secondary sources as well as visual imagery
6. display good oral communication skills.

Classroom Protocol

You are responsible for all the material presented in the presentations and assigned in the required readings. **Bring Blue Book to each examination.** Blue Books may be purchased at Spartan Bookshop. Writing correct, clear and concise English is a criterion for grading on all written work. Pay close attention to the corrections and comments made on your written assignments. If you feel you need special assistance with your writing,

come see me. Please turn off or silence cell phones while in class. Students with disabilities or needing special accommodations should see me as soon as possible. **If you have any questions or difficulties, do not hesitate to see me after class, come to my office hours or arrange an appointment.**

Course Workload, Assignments, and Assessment of Student Learning

This course is a four-unit, graded course, satisfying GWAR (Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement). To meet this requirement, all papers must be individual projects. Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with one of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus. (See SJSU Academic Senate Policy S12-3.) Because this is a 4-unit course, students can expect to spend a minimum of twelve hours per week preparing for and attending classes and completing course assignments. Careful time management will be required to keep up with readings and assignments in an intensive course such as this one. This class is a seminar for graduate students. By signing up for this course, each of you has made a commitment to attend the class regularly, read the assignments on time, and participate actively in discussion. In order for the course to succeed, you must fulfill these requirements.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>” **Make sure to review these policies and resources.**

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Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Mon. Jan. 28	Introduction; The Meaning and History of Forgery and Falsification (Roth)
2	Mon. Feb. 4	The Historiography of Forgery and Falsification (Roth)
3	Mon. Feb. 11	Presentation #1: Piltdown Man (or chosen topic). Discussion of Barr, Ben-Shakhar. <i>Science, Pseudo-Science, Non-sense and Critical Thinking</i> . Writing Assignment #1 due.
4	Mon. Feb. 18	Presentation #2: Velikovsky's Chronology (or chosen topic). Feder. <i>Frauds, Myths and Mysteries: Science and Pseudoscience in Archaeology</i> . Writing Assignment #2 due
5	Mon. Feb. 18	Presentation #3: Letters of Paul and Seneca (or chosen topic). Fritze. <i>Invented Knowledge: False History, Faked Science and Pseudo-Religions</i> . Writing Assignment #3 due.
6	Mon. Mar. 4	Presentation #4: Poems of Ossian (or chosen topic). Kelker and Bruhns. <i>Faking Ancient Mesoamerica</i> . Writing Assignment #4 due.
7	Mon. Mar. 11	Presentation #5: Donation of Constantine (or chosen topic). Lapatin. <i>Mysteries of the Snake Goddess: Art, Desire and the Forging of History</i> .

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Writing Assignment #6 due.
8	Mon. Mar. 18	Presentation #6: Dunhuang Forgeries (or chosen topic). Muscarella. <i>The Lie Became Great: The Forgery of Ancient Near Eastern Culture</i> . Writing Assignment #7 due.
9	Mon. Mar. 25	Presentation #7: Vinland Map (or chosen topic). Tattersall, Ian. <i>Hoax: A History of Deception: 5,000 Years of Fakes, Forgeries and Fallacies</i> . Writing Assignment #7 Due.
10	Mon. Apr. 1	SPRING RECESS NO CLASS
11	Mon. Apr. 8	Discussion of Paper Topics in light of readings; Annotated Bibliographies Due
12	Mon. Apr. 15	Research Day
13	Mon. Apr. 22	Research Day
14	Mon. Apr. 29	Research Day
15	Mon. May 6	Final Papers Due; Discussion of Readings in light of Paper Topics.
16	Mon. May 13	Discussion and Summary
Final Exam	Mon. May 20 5:15-7:30	FINAL

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

Veteran Services

For Student Veterans, Dependents and Spouses, Reservists and National Guard services are available. The SJSU Veterans Study Lounge is located in Clark 122. For more information contact Maggie Morales at (408) 924-6299 or Maggie.morales@sjsu.edu.