P240 29274 - Archaeology and the Movies
Open to Hutton Honors College Students only. First 8 weeks.
April Sievert
MW 5:30-8:00pm
WY 101
Office Hours: M 1:30-3:30, T 11:30-2:00 and by appt.

This class has S&H distribution credit and counts toward the Anthropology major, the Anthropology Minor, and the Archaeology minor.

The popular cinema abounds with films depicting swashbuckling characters such as Indiana Jones and Lara Croft. This is a course for students who are drawn to films about archaeologists or Egyptian mummies, but who question the portrayals of archaeologists in movies as well as the interpretation of the past that filmmakers conjure. We will look at how archaeologists are depicted (usually as glamorous adventurers) and compare this with the work that archaeologists actually do. We will address modern issues such as looting, exploitation, cultural property, and antiquities trading, and see how artifacts can have lives of their own.

We will critically examine films that show archaeologists and by extension, depict ancient people and places (including Egypt, Native America, the classical world). Film genres include action, romantic comedy, drama, sci fi, and even animé. A series of e-reserve writings by and about archaeologists augment the films and provide a basis for discussion, which we will do both in class and via Oncourse discussion forums.

Evaluation: Essays tests and a final proposal for a film that you will present to the class. Students will have some input into the films that we watch and discuss.

*No prerequisites.*

Textbook:
Holtorf, C. 2005 From Stonehenge to Las Vegas: Archaeology as Popular Culture. Altamira, Walnut Creek, CA.