

Introduction to Cryptozoology

Cryptozoology

Fall 2006

Professors:	Dr. Barnaby Seeker	Dr. Carlton von Fuzzypants
Office:	210 Heuvel House	220 Heuvel House
Email:	bseeker@cryptid.umass.edu	cvfuzzypants@cryptid.umass.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesdays, 4-5 pm	Wednesdays, 10-11 am
Meeting times:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-3:30 pm, 301 Heuvel House	

Description of Course

Purpose:

The purpose of this course is an introduction to the history of animals whose existence has been or is still questioned. Those who are considered mythical animals and do not truly exist are categorized under the study of Cryptozoology. This course explores the mythical creatures of Cryptozoology, as well as some animals that were once considered mythical (Once a Cryptid), but whose existence has since been confirmed. We will also study the history of those people, so called Leading Lights, who have worked to prove or disprove the existence of species in question.

Required Readings:

Most of the reading for this course is available in the learning modules of WebCT. For each class, you will be required to find the designated Cryptozoology animal, Once a Cryptid animal, or Leading Light in the appropriate learning module, read the provided text, and study the pictures. Occasionally, supplemental readings will be provided in class.

Assignments:

There will be a total of five assignments required throughout the course. Each assignment will be worth 10% of your final grade. 5% will be deducted from the grade of any assignment that is handed in more than a day late. Descriptions of the assignments are as follows:

Assignment 1: Add to the class Cryptozoology hoax gallery

Due Thursday, September 21st

For this assignment, you will upload a picture of your own to the class photo gallery of cryptozoology hoaxes. You have two options in doing this.

1. Create your own picture of a cryptid animal in Photoshop if you know how to manipulate images with this program and upload it onto the gallery in the Vista4 course;
OR
2. Find a manipulated picture online that is not copy-written, save it, and upload it onto the gallery in our Vista 4 course.

Whichever option you decide, make an effort to find or create something creative and convincing!

Assignment 2: Write your own myth

Due Thursday, October 5th

This is a creative writing assignment. Write your own myth about a cryptid animal, (either a pre-existing cryptid, or one that you imagine). This myth should be written in the folk-lore style in which we have read other stories so far this semester. Your myth should be at least 4 pages.

Assignment 3: Cryptids

Due Thursday, November 2nd

Research your favorite cryptid animal and write a 3-5 pages about it. Make sure to explore the history of the search for this cryptid, the lore surrounding it, and the possibility of its existence. You must site at least 5 sources that are not on our Vista course site.

Assignment 4: Once a Cryptid

Due Thursday, November 16th

Examine the history of one of the animals studied in this course that was once thought to be a cryptid but was later discovered to be real. Write a 3-4 page paper answering the following questions:

What barriers existed to people believing in this species' existence? What was the final convincing evidence that made people believe? Who found this evidence?

You must site at least 5 sources that are not on our Vista course site.

Assignment 5: Leading Light Opinion Essay

Due Thursday, November 30th

Write a 3-5 page opinion essay about which Leading Light researchers you deem to be the most credible. Support your argument with the text provided in this course as well as any additional sources you are able to find.

Grading:

Assignment 1	10%
Assignment 2	10%
Assignment 3	10%
Assignment 4	10%
Assignment 4	10%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

Up to 5 Extra Credit points will be added to your score for reading about the Extra Credit Leading Light, Roy Mackal, and writing a 5 page paper about his Fatal Flaw and why he was so obsessed with Cryptozoology and with which species he became most obsessed. This Extra Credit assignment is due on the day of the Final Exam. No late submissions will be accepted.

Schedule

Week 1: 9/12, 9/14

Tuesday – Cryptozoology Animal: Bigfoot

Thursday – Once a Cryptid animal: Coelacanth

Week 2: 9/19, 9/21

Tuesday – Cryptozoology Animal: The Yeti

Thursday – Leading Light: Tom Slick

Assignment 1 due today at the beginning of class.

Week 3: 9/26, 9/28

Tuesday – Cryptozoology Animal: The Tuba
WebCT Quiz today.

Thursday— Once a Cryptid animal: Okapi

Week 4: 10/3, 10/5

Tuesday – Cryptozoology Animal: Loch Ness Monster

Thursday – Leading Light: Bernard Heuvelmans

Assignment 2 due today at the beginning of class.

Week 5: 10/10, 10/12

Tuesday – Cryptozoology Animal: Chupacabra
WebCT Quiz today.

Thursday – Once a Cryptid: Giant Squid

Week 6: 10/17, 10/19

Tuesday – Cryptozoology Animal: Thunderbird

Thursday – Leading Light: Charles Fort

Week 7: 10/24, 10/26

*****This Week - Midterm Wednesday Night (10/25)******

Tuesday – Cryptozoology Animal: Gambo

Thursday – Once a Cryptid animal: Polar/Grizzly Hybrid

Week 8: 10/31, 11/2

Tuesday – Cryptozoology Animal: Jackalope

Thursday – Leading Light: Karl Shuker

Assignment 3 due today at the beginning of class.

Week 9: 11/7, 11/9

Tuesday – Cryptozoology Animal: Kraken

Thursday – Once a Cryptid animal: Komodo Dragon

WebCT quiz today.

Week 10: 11/13, 11/16

Tuesday – Cryptozoology Animal: Mermaids/Men

Thursday – Leading Lights: Loren Coleman

Assignment 4 due today at the beginning of class.

Week 11: 11/21, 11/23

Tuesday – Cryptozoology Animal: Mokele-Mbembe

Thursday – Once a Cryptid animal: Platypus

Week 12: 11/28, 11/30

Tuesday – Cryptozoology Animal: Mongolian Death Worm

Thursday – Leading Lights: William Ley

Assignment 5 due today at the beginning of class.

Week 13: 12/5, 12/7

Tuesday – Cryptozoology Animal: Shunka Warakin

Thursday – Once a Cryptid animal: Megamouth Shark

Week 14: 12/12, 12/14

Tuesday – Cryptozoology Animal: Unicorn

Thursday – Leading Lights: Mattew Bille

*****Final Exam – Next Wednesday Night (12/20)*****

Extra Credit Due at the beginning of the final exam!

→ Based on Leading Light: Roy Mackal, see description in Grading Section of this syllabus.