

COURSE DETAIL

HUNTERS, GATHERERS, AND STONE AGE TECHNOLOGY

Country

Norway

Host Institution

University of Oslo

Program(s)

University of Oslo

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Archaeology

UCEAP Course Number

103

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

HUNTERS, GATHERERS, AND STONE AGE TECHNOLOGY

UCEAP Transcript Title

HUNTERS&GATHERERS

UCEAP Quarter Units

8.00

UCEAP Semester Units

5.30

Course Description

The course offers an overview of Stone Age technologies, concentrating on, but not exclusively limited to, lithic (stone) technology. The curriculum places the manufacture and use of lithic artefacts in relation to the social and evolutionary contexts of hunters and gatherers. The course also concentrates on developing a more general understanding of technology from an evolutionary standpoint, and the role of technological innovations have had in shaping human societies. The course discusses topics including the biological and social bases for the development of human technology; how technological knowledge was and is culturally transmitted; how lithic tools were manufactured at various points in the past; how lithic tools were used and what they represent in the scheme of human survival strategies; why technologies change and the cultural and social contexts of these changes; how to identify and create lithic material; how to recognize the main stages of lithic production; how to recognize the various types of raw material types used in the manufacture of stone tools; and how to situate knowledge of technological traditions into broader models of social change and human evolution. Instruction regarding the essential attributes of flakes, blades, knapping debris, cores, and various tool types is emphasized. The course also touches on other forms of human technology such as fire, art, boats, and organic materials, which have been critical human technologies for hundreds of thousands of years. This course has a very prominent practical component where students put into operation what is discussed in the lectures. In the laboratories prepared bags of selected materials and accompanying work sheets are distributed. Seminars are meant to be informal and invoke lively discussions of the selected material, the associated technologies, and their social links. Fundamentally, this course challenges students to understand the basis of modern society as an extension of human environmental adaptation and modification in the past, and how deeply coded and important the human technological brain is.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

ARK2120

Host Institution Course Title

HUNTERS, GATHERERS, AND STONE AGE TECHNOLOGY

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Humanities

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

History, Archaeology and Conservation Studies

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