

COURSE DETAIL

THE FIRST PEOPLE

Country

South Africa

Host Institution

University of Cape Town

Program(s)

University of Cape Town

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Archaeology

UCEAP Course Number

112

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

THE FIRST PEOPLE

UCEAP Transcript Title

FIRST PEOPLE

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

All humans living today have a common African origin. The first humans were hunter-gatherers, as were their descendants. Indeed, our ancestors were hunter-gatherers for at least 99% of our evolutionary history, which means that our physical, psychological and social selves have been shaped by this way of life. We learn about the origin and evolution of our hunter-gatherer ancestors from genetic, fossil, archaeological and ethnographic evidence. Studies of Khoesan peoples of southern Africa have contributed significantly to our understanding of such societies. In this course we focus on the hunter-gatherer way of life over the past few hundreds of thousands of years. Specific topics covered include modern human origins, the Middle and Later Stone Age, ethnographic studies of Khoesan, the origins of pastoralism, coastal vs. arid environment adaptations, rock art and symbolic interpretation, genetics and biology, revisionism, and contemporary socio-politics and identity. In the weekly practical sessions, students will conduct hands-on, problem-solving exercises with archaeological materials.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

AGE2012F

Host Institution Course Title

THE FIRST PEOPLE

Host Institution Campus

Humanities

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Archaeology

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