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
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Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus
Humanities

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Archaeology

Course Last Reviewed

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