

# COURSE DETAIL

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND THE HUMAN JOURNEY

**Country**

**Host Institution**

**Program(s)**

University of Melbourne

**UCEAP Course Level**

Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

Geography Environmental Studies

**UCEAP Course Number**

129

**UCEAP Course Suffix**

**UCEAP Official Title**

ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND THE HUMAN JOURNEY

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

ENVT CHANGE & HUMAN

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

6.00

**UCEAP Semester Units**

4.00

**Course Description**

This course investigates the interrelationship between humans and their natural environments through time using evidence from physical and human geography, archaeology, palaeoanthropology, palaeoclimatology and palaeoecology. The course takes a deep-time perspective, journeying from the emergence of humankind 6 million years ago to the present day. Case studies are used from around the world and across many different time periods, exploring how changing environments have influenced important transitions including the first migration of humans out of Africa, the emergence of symbolic behavior, the beginning of agriculture and animal domestication, and resilience and collapse of complex societies. Many questions are explored such as Did environmental complexity shape brain development? Why did all other Homo species go extinct while Homo sapiens became dominant? Did humans play a role in the extinction of megafauna? Was the emergence of agriculture and domestication linked to changing environments? Is there a correlation between environmental change and the collapse of complex societies? How have human subsistence strategies and resource use impacted vegetation, animal species, soils and climate? How will anthropogenic climate change affect the future of our species?

**Language(s) of Instruction**

English

**Host Institution Course Number**

GEOG20015

**Host Institution Course Title**

ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND THE HUMAN JOURNEY

**Host Institution Campus**

Melbourne

**Host Institution Faculty****Host Institution Degree****Host Institution Department**

Geography

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