COURSE DETAIL

THE HUMAN PLANET: PREHISTORY TO PRESENT
Country South Africa
Host Institution University of Cape Town
Program(s) University of Cape Town
UCEAP Course Level Lower Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Archaeology Anthropology
UCEAP Course Number 11
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title THE HUMAN PLANET: PREHISTORY TO PRESENT
UCEAP Transcript Title HUMAN PLN:PRE-PRS
UCEAP Quarter Units 7.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.70

Course Description

This course introduces the study of archaeology, and the study of human origins. The course presents an overview of prehistory leading up to the modern day, as well as the broader climatic, geographic, ecological, social, and cultural contexts which made modern humans. In particular, it looks at the past through the lens of what people leave behind - the archaeological record. Topics covered include a broad understanding of the timescales of human prehistory, and our interactions with the Earth System, from the Early Pleistocene through to the Historical period, and the emergence of present day societies (the "Anthropocene"); an understanding of current concepts in archaeological thought, and the complexities of relationships between archaeologists, science, and society today; and familiarity with the foundational skills and terminology necessary for present-day archaeological research and investigation. This broad course is suitable for all undergraduate students in the sciences and humanities; but particularly for those wishing to major in Archaeology, Environmental & Geographical Science, or cognate subjects. DP requirements: Attendance at lectures and tutorials and completion of assignments. Assessment: Assignments and class tests count 50% towards the final mark and one 3-hour examination written in November counts 50%. A sub-minimum of 40% is required for the examination.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
AGE1002S

Host Institution Course Title
THE HUMAN PLANET: PREHISTORY TO PRESENT

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/media/documents/2026-sci-handbook-11-...

Host Institution Campus

University of Cape Town

Host Institution Faculty
Humanities

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Archaeology

Course Last Reviewed
2026-2027

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