

Honours Degree in Archaeology: 2008 (AGE 4000W)

The archaeology honours degree is made up of three components: the core module (40%); two optional modules (20% x 2 = 40%); and the honours project (20%). In addition to these formal activities, students are required to attend all Archaeology lunchtime seminars (Mondays at 1300 hrs), and all other departmental events, and participate fully in the intellectual life of the department. Seminars are posted and notices e-mailed to address list.

Readings: The core module and optional modules have required readings. Note the word “required” – the readings for these modules are **NOT** optional. A comprehensive set of papers for the mandatory core module will be made available, although supplementary readings might be assigned at any time. Information on reading materials for the optional modules must be obtained from the appropriate conveners.

Honours Project: (20%). Under the direction of a faculty member. The final presentation of this project will include a formal, journal quality/style write-up and a formal seminar given at the conclusion of the year and attended by the department and affiliated external faculty. Both will contribute to the final mark. The projects can form a pilot study for a continuing Master’s in Archaeology.

Mandatory Core Module in the Department of Archaeology: (40%)

Introduction to Archaeological Science (Feb 2 – April 23)

This module provides a broad overview of methods and practice in archaeology, and includes sessions on the Philosophy of Science, Statistics, Dating, Osteology, and Heritage.

Marking Policies for Mandatory Module: Any assignments are due at the beginning of class/lecture on the day designated by the instructor, or written in the course outline and/or assignment handouts. Marks for assignments not submitted to the instructor by the designated due date are reduced by one full mark for each 24 hour period after the due date. Requests for extensions will be considered at the discretion of the instructor. If an extension is granted the new due date is subject to the same late policy noted above.

Plagiarism, cheating, fabrication or using the work of another student or scholar will not be tolerated and will result in failure of the course.

Regular course attendance and active participation is expected. In addition to attending lectures, students must come prepared to engage with the written materials presented, and to have read all required readings for the week prior to attending class. Students who do not attend regularly cannot expect to receive a satisfactory mark. Students are expected to participate actively in all aspects of the course, expressing judgments and/or posing questions at each class session, and should be prepared, at all times, to give a clear summary of the assigned readings.

Optional Modules: (40% (20% per module)).

In addition to the Core Module, students must choose 2 of the following modules. You may replace any of these modules with *approved* Honours modules from an associated discipline with the approval of the convener for that course and the Archaeology Honours Coordinator. Please note that the *availability of these courses varies*, depending on demand, so plan your schedule in advance.

History and Archaeology of the Western Cape

Offered by: Prof. Nigel Penn, Dept History

Duration: 6 weeks

Topics in Pre-Industrial Western Cape Archaeology and History (HST411Z)

Offered by: Prof N Penn (in 2004)

Duration: Semester 2, 6 weeks

Images of Africa (CAS403X)

Offered by: Dr N Shepherd (CAS)

Duration: Semester 1, 12 weeks

This is an inter-institutional multi-media course focused on the manner in which Africa has been imaged and reproduced. The course makes innovative use of information and communications technology to underscore educational and research opportunities, and to further investigation into the imaging of Africa. Topics include historical and contemporary myths and European perceptions of Africa; travel writing; romantic and pastoral representations; the representation of indigenous people; contemporary myths of Africa; the construction and deconstruction of the idea of race, etc.

The Politics and Ethics of Collecting (HST408Z) (not offered 2004)

Offered by: Dr N Worden

Duration: Semester 2, 9 weeks

This is a joint course offered by Historical Studies and Archaeology on the history of museums and art galleries. It traces the antecedents, growth and current condition of display and collection policies, and how these have changed from the colonial to the modern era. It looks at debates within public museums, the 'New Museology', and issues around ownership and repatriation.

Curation of Quaternary collections

Offered by: Dr G Avery (SA Museum)

Duration: Semester 2, 6 weeks, 2 double sessions/week, SA Museum

The aim of this module is to introduce students to the background of field and laboratory curation of collections. We introduce the dual roles of museums in society, education and curation, and discuss the legal responsibilities of museums for preserving the materials in the collections for future researchers and public, and the implications of provisions and conditions of the National Monuments Council for permit-holders and curators. The course will equip students either to work knowledgeable with curators, or to begin a career as a professional curator of collections.

Mapping the Past

Offered by: Dr B Rogers Ackermann (Archaeology) and Dr U Rivett (Civil Engineering)

Duration: 3 weeks, during mid-year vacation

This module uses paleontology and archaeology as tools for teaching modern technologies, including GIS, GPS, 2-D Visualization, Data acquisition, storage and manipulation, Web publishing, etc. It is aimed both at archaeologists interested in learning practical, marketable skills, and at engineers and others interested in exploring alternative applications for technological expertise.

Makapansgat Paleanthropological Field School

Offered by: Dr Kevin Kuykendall (Dept. of Anatomical Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand)

Duration: 5 weeks, intensive, July 1 – August 5

The University of the Witwatersrand Department of Anatomical Sciences, South Africa offer a field school opportunity in paleoanthropology. The program includes course instruction in faunal analysis, hominid identification and excavation. There are visits to sites of important hominid fossil discoveries, such as Sterkfontein, Swartkrans, and Drimolin. The Makapansgat Valley is the site of more than three million years of human evolution, including the early *Australopithecus africanus* assemblage at the Limeworks Cave and the Middle Pleistocene locality of the Cave of Hearths. Students interested in this module must *apply* for entrance early (due date early February) – there are limited openings, and only two fee-waived slots are available to South Africans.

Human Anatomy

Offered by: Prof A Morris (Human Biology, UCT Medical School)

Duration: 8 weeks, intensive, before beginning of first semester

This module is an intensive introduction to human anatomy. The majority of the course will be spent in dissection, with supplemental seminars.

Paleobiology

Offered by: A/Prof A Chinsamy-Turan (Zoology and SA Museum), and Drs H Klinger, R Smith and P Haarhof (SA Museum)

Duration: Semester 2, 6 week course including lectures, pracs, and seminar contact, as well as a fieldtrip.

This course will explore processes of fossilization, taphonomic processes, fossil collecting methods, episodes in the origin of life on earth, paleobiology of invertebrates and vertebrates, major extinction events.

Systematics and Biodiversity

Offered by: Dr T Hedderson (Botany)

Duration: 7 weeks, semester 2

This course covers the methods and approaches used in taxonomy, systematics, and natural history collection curation. It includes formal training in the conceptual basis of taxonomy (species concepts), the rules of nomenclature, and multivariate and cladistic methods of analyzing patterns of variation.

Quaternary palaeoecology

Offered by: A/Prof M Meadows (EGS), Dr G Avery (SA Museum), Dr E February (Botany)

Duration: 7 weeks, second half of semester 1

The aim of this module is to foster and appreciation of Quaternary paleoecology as an important concept in the study of environmental change. This is achieved by developing an understanding of past environmental changes, as exemplified by the paleoecological evidence. The concepts and methods of paleoecology are illustrated with particular reference to pollen analysis and study of micromammals. While the focus of the course is broad, even global, the major features of environmental change and its impact are illustrated with examples from southern Africa.

Principles and practice of stable light isotopes

Offered by: Prof N van der Merwe, with A/Prof J Lee-Thorp, J Sealy (Archaeology) and invited lecturers.

Duration: One week of lectures (June 7-11 in 2004) followed by lab-based project and write up, intensive.

The tool of stable light isotopes forms one of the pillars of past environment and climate work, because it allows precise tracing and quantification of change. This module covers the principles of stable light isotopes in general, fractionation, and history of the field. It then proceeds to discuss applications of various individual light isotopes (H, C, N, O) in the life and earth sciences. These include applications in hydrology, paleoceanography, global climate change, plant sciences, archaeology, paleoanthropology and paleontology.