**South African Archaeology: 070: 426 cross 070:585**

Instructor: Professor Carmel Schrire  
Venue: BioSciences 206 T 3.55-6.55pm  
Office: RAB 201  
Office Hours:  T Th 12pm -1pm. Please email and by appointment.  
Phone: 732 932 9006  
Email: cschrire@yahoo.com

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**  
This course is a detailed review of the sequence and interpretation of archaeological evidence found in the Republic of South Africa. South African archaeology has been central to the understanding of human evolution and cultural identity for the past 100 years. This course tells why.

The evidence for the presence of humans in southern Africa for the past 3 million years is set in the wider scheme of world prehistory. The use of analogy to interpret the past is extensively reviewed, with particular emphasis on the ethnography of South African hunters and herders. This is followed by analysis of finds, sequences, and the artifacts that date from the early emergence of recognizably human animals to the arrival of European colonists around 1500 AD. Particular emphasis is placed on the contribution of South African research to the question of human identity, cultural behaviour and cognitive evolution.

The course will consist of lectures, visual presentations, and lab sessions. Student participation will be encouraged at all stages.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**  
The purpose of this course is to introduce students to a major region of world prehistory. The sequences are taught with reference to their wider interpretation in a world context. Topics like the evolution of material production and human cognition provide a sophisticated view of the discipline of archaeology as it is practiced today.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**  
1. Exams: There will be three exams. The first two (30 points each) will take place in class. The final exam (30 points) will take place after classes end, in the exam period. The exams will feature varying amounts of short answers, map recognition, artefact identification, and short essays.

2. In addition, periodic, short class assignments will be given (10 points).
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<td>TOPIC 1: Background to South African Archaeology in the context of World Prehistory</td>
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<td>September 18</td>
<td>TOPIC 2: Analogy in SA Archaeology: The Great Kalahari Debate</td>
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<td>FILM: “A KALAHARI FAMILY (Parts 1-5)</td>
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PLEASE NOTE:

Archaeology is a dynamic and competitive profession and this course follows the literature closely, so that at any time, students are strongly advised that:

- new readings may be added to the listings
- many references here are available on Google or Google Scholar and students are strongly advised to search the web for new findings and new publications

Textbook:

Readings:
The course covers the topics listed below. The readings are available on reserve in the SAKAI under the instructor’s name (Schrire) or the course number (070:426)
TOPICS IN SA ARCHAEOLOGY

1. Background to SA Archaeology: History and Environment

2 Analogy in SA Archaeology: The Great Kalahari Debate
Readings:
3. Early Stone Age: Human Beginnings and True Humans

Books:

Papers:
Cruz-Uribe, K. et al. 2003 Excavation of buried Late Acheulean (Mid-Quaternary) land surfaces at Duinefontein 2, Western Cape Province, South Africa. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 30: 559-75,
4. Middle Stone Age: Emergence of Modern People

Books:

Site Reports:
*1. KRM: Klasies River Mouth*
*2. BMP: Boomplaas*
*3. DK: Die Kelders*
*4. BBC: Blombos Cave*

Papers:
Conard, N. 2005. An overview of the patterns of behavioural change in Africa and Eurasia during the Middle and Late Pleistocene. In d’Errico, F and L. Blackwell (eds), *From tools to symbols. From early hominids to modern humans*; 294-332.

### 5 a. Later Stone Age : Sites & Sequences

**Books:**

**Papers:**


**BMP: Boomplaas**
5 b. Later Stone Age : Life and Death

Papers:


6. Herding: Prehistoric identities in the SW Cape


**Papers:**
7. Rock Art

Books:
Lewis Williams, D.L. 2002 *The Mind in the Cave*

Papers:

8. Historical Archaeology:

Books:

Papers: