

*This syllabus is subject to further change or revision, as needed, to best realize the educational goals of the course. Necessary revisions will be announced in class or on course materials with fair prior notice.*

### **MASTER SYLLBUS**

This is a general outline of coursework and expectations, but is subject to change per the instructor.

#### **ASM 338: Field Methods in Anthropology (6 credits)**

**Dr. Kaye Reed**

South Africa Paleontology, Paleoanthropology and Paleoecology Field School  
Summer 2009

#### **Course Meetings:**

July 15 to August 15, 2010 (6 credits)

#### **Instructor:**

Office: Kaye Reed

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#### **Course Description:**

The Institute of Human Origins in ASU's School of Human Evolution and Social Change, in conjunction with IZIKO, the South African Museum, offers a field school focused on the west coast of South Africa. In the program, students will learn about the ecology, paleoecology, and conservation of the unique habitat of this region; excavate 5.2 million year old fossils; and become familiar with the geology of the area.

Much of the time, we will be camping in West Coast Fossil Park near the fossil site of Langebaanweg (equipment and laundry provided), but the program also provides ample opportunities to explore other parts of the country, including Cape Town museums and nearby national parks; visit the seaside Langebaanweg region; survey the Homo erectus site of Elandsfontein; and experience a safari in Kruger National Park, home to the "big five" – buffalo, rhino, elephant, leopard and lion.

#### **Field Experiences and Guest Lecturers:**

Thus far we have planned to have field trips each week in the area to learn about:



- 1) a 1 million year old fossil locality room which Homo erectus has been recovered;
- 2) a trip to the West Coast National Park to learn about plants and animals;
- 3) visits to local elementary and high schools to explain their cultural heritage;
- 4) trips to the South African Museum and Table Mountain National Park (Cape Town); and
- 5) presentations by students to the local community.

In addition, we are going to either Kruger National Park or Pilansburg National Park, or both, so that students can experience the unique wildlife of Africa. All of these field trips are in place as we have contacted the appropriate reservations and personnel. A co-instructor in South Africa, Dr. Deano Stnyder, is curator of cenozoic mammals at Iziko and a faunal and bioarchaeology specialist. Also involved is Dr. Lloyd Rosseau, a phytolith specialist; Dr. David Braun, an archaeologist.

### **Student Qualifications:**

There are no pre-requisites for this field school. Students must be at least 18 years of age, have a minimum GPA of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) and be in good standing with their home institution. Non-ASU students must provide a recent transcript with their applications. Students with a GPA below 2.5 or in poor standing for any other reason are required to submit two letters of recommendation (preferably from current professors) with their application, in support of their suitability as applicants.

### **Required Course Texts/ Readings:**

None, relevant readings will be provided to students.

### **Coursework & Grading**

**Attendance:** This course will only last four weeks, so missing one day is like missing a whole week during a normal semester. If you do wake up ill, you're expected to notify the instructor and you absolutely must arrange make-up days with the instructor before the end of the semester.

**Grading criteria:** There are not papers or tests in this course, but there are certain expectations that must be fulfilled to receive a strong course grade.

First, of course, you must attend: you can only learn to dig by actually spending time in the field digging, and this is not happening if you are not on site. Students are expected to be on-time and have a good attitude at all times.

Second, students will be required to present to the local community. Topics to present will be decided on in the field.

### Final Grades

A	90-100	Excellent
B	80-89.9	Good
C	70-79.9	Average
D	60-69.9	Passing
E	<60	Failure
XE		Failure due to Academic Dishonesty

### Incompletes

A mark of "I" (incomplete) is given by the instructor when you are otherwise doing acceptable work but are unable to complete the course because of illness or other conditions beyond your control. You are required to arrange with the instructor for the completion of the course requirements. The arrangement must be recorded on the [Request for Grade of Incomplete form \(http://students.asu.edu/forms/incomplete-grade-request\)](http://students.asu.edu/forms/incomplete-grade-request).

### Course Schedule

#### July 15: Cape Town

- Arrive in Cape Town
- Time for settling in, phone calls, exchanging money, etc.

*Accommodations: Hostel in Cape Town (TBD)*

#### July 16–18: Cape Town

- Visit IZIKO Museum
- Table Mountain
- Cape Point National Park
- Whale Watching

*Accommodations: Hostel in Cape Town (TBD)*

#### July 19–August 10: Langebaanweg—West Coast Fossil Park

- Lectures and Practice: Excavation, biomes, faunal analysis and conservation (at West Coast Fossil Park)
- West Coast National Park Visit
- Visit Langebaanweg Village
- Visit Elandsfontein Fossil Site

*Accommodations: Camping at West Coast Fossil Park*

#### August 11– 15: Kruger National Park

- Safari

*Accommodations: Kruger National Park*

#### August 15-16

- Students can leave after program end on the 15<sup>th</sup> or can leave on the 16<sup>th</sup> to Airport (July 18)

**University Policies: Academic Integrity**

All students are responsible for reviewing and following ASU's policies on academic integrity: <http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>. If you fail to meet the standards of academic integrity in any of the criteria listed on the university policy website, sanctions will be imposed by the instructor, school, and/or dean. Academic dishonesty includes borrowing ideas without proper citation, copying others' work (including information posted on the internet), and failing to turn in your own work for group projects. Please be aware that the work of all students submitted electronically can be scanned using SafeAssignment, which compares them against everything posted on the internet, online article/paper databases, newspapers and magazines, and papers submitted by other students.

**University Policies: Student Support and Disability Accommodations**

ASU offers support services through Counseling (<http://students.asu.edu/counseling>), the Learning Resources Center ([www.asu.edu/lrc](http://www.asu.edu/lrc)), and the Disability Resource Center (<http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc/>). If you are a student in need of special arrangements for we will do all we can to help, based on the recommendations of these services. For the sake of equity for all students, we cannot make any accommodations without formal guidance from these services.