

ANTH 347

PLEISTOCENE ARCHAEOLOGY OF AFRICA

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Yin Lam

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

In this course, the Pleistocene archaeological record of Africa will be used as a framework for activities designed to practice and enhance academic skills. The course material surveys over 3 million years of archaeology, from the earliest known traces of stone tool use until the beginning of the Holocene. To provide a framework for the interpretation of the archaeological record, the course offers an introduction to the climate, ecology, fossil hominins, and modern foraging populations of Africa while acknowledging the colonial nature of the practice of African archaeology, past and present.

Skills Development

Students engage in two assignments based on fundamental academic activities. The first is the preparation and delivery of a class presentation based on library research. The second is an exercise in peer-review, conducted anonymously, in which students write a paper on the same topic, read and review the papers of classmates, and revise their papers based on their classmates' feedback.