

ANTH 349

PALEOLITHIC ART

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. April Nowell

Course Description and Objectives

Drawing on lectures, slides, films, assigned readings, hands-on lab experiments and class discussions, this course explores cave art and portable art (including figurines) made from 40,000 – 10,000 years ago during the Upper Paleolithic. Specifically, we will look at techniques of manufacture, analysis, interpretation, dating and conservation. We will consider questions such as who made this art, can we infer its meaning(s), what does it tell us about the cognitive capacities of our ancestors, can we use art to study the individual in the past and should we even use the term “art” to describe these images? The second half of the course will focus on regional developments within Paleolithic art (e.g., Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Siberia, South Africa and Australia). Students are expected to become cognizant of key issues in Paleolithic art and the history of research in this discipline and to be able to recognize images, artifacts and artistic styles from sites in different regions of the Old World.

Skills Development

Research, critical reading, and academic writing (clear, focused, data supported writing); public speaking/academic presentation.