

Queen Mary Summer School 2020

SUM501F Timewalkers: early humans, stone tools and environmental change

School of Geography

Course outline

Date: 20 July - 7 August 2020

Level: 5

Credits: 15 (Queen Mary credits)

Course leader: Professor Simon Lewis (s.lewis@qmul.ac.uk)

Assessment: portfolio (50%) and a 3,000 word essay (50%)

Course description:

This module takes you on a journey through time to discover Britain's Stone Age past. Using a mixture of classroom-based sessions, hands-on activities, museum visits and field excursions you will learn how archaeologists reconstruct past landscapes and understand the human populations that once inhabited these lost worlds. The module explores the first dispersals of humans across Europe; a remarkable story of survival in unfamiliar landscapes, where the challenges of changing climate, physical barriers and food and resource availability, tested human resilience to its limits. Located at the edge of this ice-age world, Britain uniquely documents these early inhabitants and their social, cultural and technological development.

Learning outcomes:

On completion of the module, students will be expected to have acquired:

Academic Content:

- Understanding of the human fossil record and the development of modern humans
- Knowledge of early human presence in Britain and its environmental and palaeogeographical context.

Disciplinary Skills:

- Ability to recognise Palaeolithic stone tools including basic artefact identification, description and interpretation
- Ability to synthesise, interpret and analyse information from a range of sources

Attributes:

- Acquire and apply knowledge in a rigorous way
- Engage with the professional world
- Grasp the principles and practices of their field of study

Approximate cost:

The tuition fees for the **Timewalkers: early humans, stone tools and environmental change** course are **£1,700**. There may be additional costs for field trips, such as entry to exhibitions, which will be in the region of **£10 - £20**. All reading material is provided digitally so you are not required to purchase any books.

Assessments:

The course assessments are not compulsory, however, if you wish to transfer credit for this course to your home university it is essential to complete the assignments.

Portfolio (50%) and a 3,000 word essay (50%)

Preparation:

Before you arrive on campus, it is advised that you familiarise yourself with the course content before it begins. You will be given instructions for accessing our Virtual Learning Environment (QMplus) before you arrive on campus.

Teaching:

The course is taught in two two-hour sessions per day (10.00 - 12.00 and 13.00 - 15.00), held Monday to Thursday each week. Teaching in lectures and seminars will be supplemented with a number of structured study sessions and assessment preparation for the coursework.

Course content:

Session 1	Ice Age Earth: an introduction to the Quaternary / Climate, human origins and dispersals into Europe
Session 2	Making stone tools (practical) / Making stone tools (practical) continued
Session 3	The earliest human occupation of Britain / London before London: Trafalgar Square to South Kensington (walking tour)
Session 4	Field excursion to East Anglia
Session 5	Field excursion to East Anglia
Session 6	Palaeolithic archaeology: artefact types and technology / London before London: in the footsteps of Worthington Smith (walking tour)
Session 7	Palaeolithic archaeology: exploring lithic assemblages
Session 8	Reconstructing early human environments
Session 9	The Hoxnian interglacial: technological, social and cultural change at 400ka / Fire!
Session 10	The rise and fall of the Neanderthals / After the ice: Upper Palaeolithic societies
Session 11	Upper Palaeolithic lithic assemblages / Ice Age Art

Please note that the information provided may be subject to change.