



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Elephant and Man - Through Biological Aspects - 43626

Last update 30-10-2024

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Archaeology & Ancient near East

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof Rivka Rabinovich

Coordinator Email: rivkar@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: upon e-mail requirements

Teaching Staff:

Prof. Rivka Rabinovich

Course/Module description:

Elephants fascinates people. The course is aimed to go through the unique biological characteristics of the group, and the interaction with humans in the past and today.

Course/Module aims:

Our aim is to learn about a unique species group through its interaction with human in the past and today.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

General knowledge of the elephants
Historical background of the exploitation around the world
Moral aspects of the current status of the species

Attendance requirements(%):
100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Frontal

Course/Module Content:

Evolution of the group

The biology and natural history of elephants

Elephants in the archaeological record.

Extinctions

Domestication or taming?

Elephant of war - myth and evidences

The status of elephants nowadays in Africa and Asia - current research

Student's seminars

Required Reading:

Boschian, G., Saccà, D., 2010. Ambiguities in human and elephant interactions? Stories of bones, sand and water from Castel di Guido (Italy). *Quaternary International* 214, 3-16.

Christiansen, P., 2004. Body size in proboscideans, with notes on elephant metabolism. *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* 140, 523-549.

Conybeare, A., Haynes, G., 1984. Observations of Elephant mortality and bones in Water Holes. *Quaternary Research* 22, 189-200.

Fisher, Jr., J.W., 2001. Elephant butchery practices in the Ituri Forest, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and their relevance for interpreting human activities at prehistoric proboscidean sites. In: West, D., (ed.), *Proceedings of the International Conference on Mammoth Site Studies Publications in Anthropology* 22. University of Kansas, Lawrence, pp. 1-10.

Gaudzinski, S., Turner, E., Anzidei, A.P., Alvarez-Fernández, E., Arroyo-Cabrales, J., Cinq-Mars, J., Dobosi, V.T., Hannus, A., Johnson, E., Münzel, S.C., Scheer, A., Villa, P., 2005. The use of proboscidean remains in every-day Palaeolithic life. *Quaternary International* 126-128, 179-194.

Goren-Inbar, N., Lister, A., Werker, E., Chech, M., 1994. A butchered elephant skull and associated artifacts from the Acheulian site of Gesher Benot Ya'aqov, Israel. *Paléorient* 20, 99-112.

Lister, A.M., 2004. Ecological interactions of Elephantids in Pleistocene Eurasia: *Palaeoloxodon* and *Mammuthus*. In: Goren-Inbar, N., Speth, J. (Eds.), *Palaeoecology of the Levantine Corridor*. Oxbow Books, Oxford, pp.53-60.

Mussi, M., Villa, P., 2008. Single carcass of *Mammuthus primigenius* with lithic artifacts in the Upper Pleistocene of northern Italy. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 35, 2606-2613.

Sukumar, R., 2003. *The living elephants*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Surovell, T., Waguespack, N., Brantingham, P.J., 2005. Global archaeological evidence for proboscidean overkill. *PNAS* 102 (17), 6231-6236.

Tchernov, E., Shoshani, J., 1996. Proboscidean remains in the southern Levant. In: Shoshani, J., Tassy, P. (Eds.), *The Proboscidea: Evolution and Palaeoecology of elephants and their relatives*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 225-233.

Yravedra, J., Dominguez-Rodrigo, M., Santonja, M., Perz-Gonzalez, A., Panera, J., Rubio-Jara, S., Baquedano, E., 2010. Cut marks on the Middle Pleistocene elephant carcass of Aridos 2 (Madrid, Spain). *Journal of Archaeological Science* 37, 2469-2476.

Additional Reading Material:

Every student according to its on research project

Grading Scheme:

Additional information:

A visit to the National Natural History Collections at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem