Paleoecology and Archaeology

A survey of the Palaeolithic settlement of Asia, before the arrival of Homo sapiens in light of paleoecology and archaeology.

Course prerequisites
Either Introduction to Archaeology (01.070.105) or Introduction to Human Evolution (01.070.102).

Instructor
Hylke de Jong
Office hours Tuesday and Friday 12.30-2.30 PM or by appointment
Room: BIO 204B

Class meetings
Thursday: 3.55-6.55 BIO-315 in the Biological Sciences Building Douglass Campus.

Materials
In addition to the resources made available, the following book is recommended:
Dennell, Robin 2009 The Palaeolithic Settlement of Asia; Cambridge University Press, Cambridge etc.

Learning goals
- Paleoecological problems and the settlement of Asia
- Prehistoric landscapes
- Barriers and corridors to Pleistocene settlement

Grading
Grading will be based on a term paper due by the end of the semester (40%), a presentation (30%), and class participation (30%).

Course Policies
Academic Integrity: Cheating lowers the value of a Rutgers degree and the learning experience for all students. No form of cheating, including plagiarism, will be tolerated. One commits plagiarism when one represents the text or ideas of others as one’s own creation. Please visit the website of the Rutgers Office of Academic Integrity (http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu) for a fuller explanation of plagiarism and of the penalties for it. Convicted plagiarists may receive a disciplinary F in the course and possibly face expulsion from the University.
Student Absences: Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/ to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

Schedule
1. Week 1: 7 Sep Introduction
2. Week 2: 14 Sep Asia and Its Place in Palaeoanthropology and The African Background to the Colonisation of Asia
3. Week 3: 21 Sep The Climatic and Environmental Background to Hominin Settlement in Asia before 1 MA
4. Week 4: 28 Sep The Earliest Inhabitants of Southwest Asia
5. Week 5: 5 Oct The Earliest Inhabitants of South and Southeast Asia and China
7. Week 7: 19 Oct The Climatic and Environmental Background to Hominin Settlement in Asia between ca. 1 MA and the last Interglacial
8. Week 8: 26 Oct The Middle Pleistocene Archaeological Record for Southwest and Central Asia
10. Week 10: 9 Nov The Middle Pleistocene Archaeological Record of China and Southeast Asia
11. Week 11: 16 Nov Tuesday Human Evolution in Asia during the Middle Pleistocene
12. Week 12: 23 Nov Conclusion
13. Week 13: 30 Nov Presentations
14. Week 14: 7 Dec Last Class