

Programa da Unidade Curricular

		Ano Lectivo: 2011/2012	
<b>What is Prehistoric Art; a journey through paint and chisel (área: História e Arqueologia)</b>			2 ECTS
Curso de Mestrado em Arqueologia Pré-Histórica e Arte Rupestre			

Carga Horária	Horas Totais de Contacto				Docente	George Nash
	T	TP	P	PL		
	0	18	0	0		Docente Convidado

**Synopsis:**

This course will look at the fundamental components that describe the execution and meaning of art. This medium of visual expression is a global phenomenon that dates back to at least 60,000 years when the first modern humans begin to colonise the globe. Esoterically, and on a personal level art is an aesthetic visual medium which can mean different things to different people. In terms of the archaeological record, art can be expressed in a variety of ways (portable art, rock art, body art, landscape art, etc.).

Based on these general points, this course will look at the history of research, using a number of the major discoveries, the scholars involved and their various interpretations. In addition, the course will also look at the philosophical ideas that have been incorporated into prehistoric art in general, such as shamanism, entoptic phenomenon and totemism; clearly art acts as a catalyst for human agency.

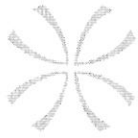
**Evaluation:**

Students will be assessed following the teaching component of the course. The assessment exercise will include the construction of a rock art narrative using a series of prehistoric symbols. Students will be asked to present (in groups) their narrative; the rationale is to be as creative and expressive as possible. Public speaking is an important skill that students will need not only as an archaeologist, but in other walks of life. It is an essential part of your assessment in order to complete this course option.

**Bibliography:**

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- Mazel, A, Nash, G.H. & Waddington, C. (eds.) 2007. Metaphor as Art: The Prehistoric Rock-art of Britain. Oxford: Archaeopress.
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- Nash, G.H. & Chippindale C. 2002 (eds.). *European Landscapes of Rock-Art*. London: Routledge.
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- Whitley, D.S. 2000. *The Art of the Shaman: Rock art of California*. University of Utah Press. Salt Lake City
- Whitley, D.S. 2005. *Introduction to Rock Art Research*. Left Coast Press.

**Observations:**

Students will be taught the archaeology of art; from the Upper Palaeolithic to contemporary street art. Using both the archaeological and anthropological records students will be expected to identify key philosophical points; i.e. the meaning of art, why it is used and where it is placed. From the course, students will gain a broad knowledge-base of this global phenomenon.

O Director do Mestrado,



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(Doutor Luíz Oosterbeek)