Leon H. Charney
School of
Marine
Sciences
UNIVERSITY
OF HAIFA

Layers of meaning – campus on geological, biogenic, and archaeological sections at the Dead Sea – 2 credits

Course Number: 224.4094

Lecturer: Prof. Nicolas Waldmann

Office Hours: Monday, 12:00-14:00, Multipurpose Building – Room 130, tel. 048280736, email: nwaldmann@univ.haifa.ac.il

Course Type: Campus

Course Level: MSc/ PhD

Prerequisites: No

Course Description:

The transformation of landscapes can be told through the study of stratigraphical sections. Geologists, paleozoologists, botanists, and archaeologists all record, date, and analyze stratigraphic sequences that are formed by processes of different timescales and magnitudes. In this course, we aim to present the methods that scientists apply to sections to interpret landscape evolution, from deep time to the Anthropocene. We will visit key geological formations, fossiliferous caves, and ancient settlements in the region of the Dead Sea and discuss the formation and interpretation of their deposits. The campus will be taught in English, and will provide a unique opportunity for cross-disciplinary interaction between students from different disciplines and institutions.

Preliminary program of the fieldtrip:

Day 1: Geological sections
- Nahal Zin-Amaziahu fault cave
- Nahal Mishmar

Day 2: Biological sections
- Yael Cave
- Cave of Skulls

Day 3: Archaeological sections
- Qumran Cave 24
- Murabba'at Caves
- Tel Goren
- En Gedi Byzantine Village

Topics:

1. Learning about the geological record out of archeological sites.
2. Interpreting the environmental conditions that prevailed in those anthropogenic sites.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Learn about the footprint of humans on nature and the environment.
2. Understand the different methods used for unraveling the presence of humans in stratigraphic sequences.

Requirements: Reports and Class presentations. Lectures and fieldtrip will be given in English.

Grading: Report.

Reading List: To be distributed.

Dr. Moses Strauss Department of Marine Geosciences
The Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences I University of Haifa
199 Aba Khoushy Ave., Mount Carmel, Haifa 3103301, Israel
Tel: +972-4-8288794 I margeo@univ.haifa.ac.il I https://marsci.haifa.ac.il/