Course Information Sheet

Course title: Archaeoastronomy			
Course reference: AR2531	Tutor(s): Themis Dallas		
Venue: University of Thessaly, dpt. of History, Archaeology and Social Anthropology		Fee: N/A	
Start date: October	End date: January	Day(s)/time(s): Every 1 or 2 years	
Number of sessions: 13	Hours per session: 3 (39 hours total)		Level: 6
Title of qualification to be gained (if any): N/A			
Awarding body (if any): N/A			
Essential materials			

Course aims:
Archaeoastronomy is the study of beliefs and knowledge of peoples concerning the sky in the past, as well the uses of this knowledge. This course aims to show the problems that archaeoastronomy can address, its methodology, its position within archaeology, and -in a broader scope- the conflicts that can arise in interdisciplinary research and the ways to solve tham. This course includes labolatory and field work.

Course description:
The course is addressed to students of archaeology of the 3rd or 4th year, but it can also be taken by students of history (hardly ever) and social anthropology (a few show up). It comprises of 8 sessions with lectures, 4 sessions for practice in the computer lab, 1 session for practice on field measurements.
Grading is a combination of scores from:
• Exercises during the semester. These include:
Creating a horizon calendar from home.
Discovering a archaeological monument in GE from the desciptions in the literature.
Measuring the azimuth and horizon of the monument in GE and calculating its declination as well as the date the sun rises along the axis of the monument.
Using Stellarium to reproduce the sky at a specific place and time.
• Exams at end of the semester (duration: 2 hours).
About 30-40 multiple choice questions from all the different subjectes taught in the lectures.
Measuring the azimuth and horizon of a monument in GE.

Any prior knowledge or entry requirements?
They should have fulfilled the introductory course on computer use taught to 1st year students.
I also request that they remember the basics of trigonometry, as taught in high school.

Course content: what topics will the course cover?
• What is archaeoastronomy.
• History of archaeoastronomy.
• Problems in the interaction of archaeoastronomy with history and archaeology.
• Basics of naked eye astronomy.
• "Green" and "Brown" archaeoastronomy.
• Archaeoastronomy across the cultures: Megalithic Britain, Megalithic West Mediterranean, Americas, Egypt, Greece, Ancient calendars.
• Using software tools: "Stellarium" and "Google Earth".
• Using tools on the field: compass, clinometer and D-GPS.

Teaching, learning and assessment methods: *tick those to be used* ✓							
Demonstration	✓	Discussion		Group work		Individual work	✓
Project work		Research		Role play		Written work	
Question and answer		Activity outside class time	✓	Observation	✓	Practical work	✓
Presentation	✓	Field trip		Other (state)			

How will I receive feedback on my learning progress and achievement?
The University sends an anonymous questionnaire to all students around the end of the semester. Unfortunately, very few students actually complete them.

Learning outcomes:
By the end of the course, students should be able to understand the:
• Major findings of archaeoastronomy research.
• Methods used in archaeoastronomy.
• Conflicts between archaeoastronomy and archaeology and the ways to address them.

Reading and information sources:
• The draft of my own book.
• Giulio Magli: *Archaeoastronomy. Introduction to the Science of Stars and Stones*, Springer.

Suggestions for progression to further study or for using the skills and knowledge gained:

Please indicate recent past or anticipated number of enrolments on this course:
About 15-20 enroll each time, but just over half of them complete the course.