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Animals, Fauna and Flora at UCT Summer School

Animals and the environment are under the spotlight in three courses on offer at the University of Cape Town's 66th Summer School, which runs from 18-29 January 2016.

In a lunchtime lecture on Tuesday, 19 January 2016, entitled *With a Flick of a Hippo's Tail*, doctoral candidate Jessica Dawson will discuss the effect of hippo dung on the food web of the St Lucia Estuary. This lecture forms part of the Young Scientists series which showcases the work and life stories of young scientists who are making a name for themselves in their fields of study.

Participants can learn about extinctions that have occurred over the past 4.5 billion years as well as current extinctions (often called the sixth mass extinction, and the first to be driven primarily by humans) in a five-lecture course *Extinctions: Past and Present* coordinated by Professor Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan. This lecture series will run from 25-29 January at 09h15.

The course *Grass, Animals, People: Our Global Dilemma*, which runs from 12h00-14h00 on Saturday, 23 January, will explore the history of a seven million year relationship between grasslands, animals, hominids and humans. Lecturer Dr Peter Ardington will examine the processes of grasslands before human intervention and the consequences of human-mediated ecosystem disruption with reference to grass morphology and behaviour, desertification, soil erosion, climate change, biodiversity and game and livestock grazing management.

For more information, see the [Summer School website](#). To register or request a brochure contact 021 650 2888 or ems@uct.ac.za. Contact Claire Kelly on 021 650 2887 or email her on ch.kelly@uct.ac.za for media enquiries.

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