



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

AE1001 Prehistoric metalwork in focus- analysis and interpretation of copper alloy metalwork, 15 credits

Förhistoriens metallarbete i fokus - analys och tolkning av kopparlegeringar, 15 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Historical Studies on 2024-01-12 to be valid from 2024-09-02, autumn semester of 2024.

Field of education: Arts 50% and Science 50%

Department: Department of Historical Studies

Position in the educational system

Free-standing orientation course

Main field of studies

Archaeology

Specialization

G1F, First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

To gain permission to the course, at least 30 credits in undergraduate archaeology courses or equivalent are required.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Classify archaeological metalwork based on its shape, material, and basic dating (typology).

- Discuss the methods used for metalwork analysis and provide information about what these methods entail. These methods include lead isotope analysis, trace elemental analysis, metallography, traceology, and corrosion studies.
- Explain the strengths and weaknesses of these methods and techniques, such as lead isotope analysis.

Competence and skills

- Perform an initial visual analysis (typology) of metalwork objects and formulate a preliminary interpretation regarding their function and dating, including finding and using comparative material.
- develop a project idea to gain further information about metalwork and select the appropriate methods for this purpose.

Judgement and approach

- Evaluate the current condition of metalwork objects and determine their suitability for further analysis.
- Assess the results and interpretations of metalwork studies for their appropriateness.

Course content

This is a stand-alone course that students can elect to further their basic knowledge of archaeological metalwork. We will go through various different aspects of metalwork analysis. We will train hands-on to sort copper alloy metalwork using typology, which helps to understand the chronology and function of the objects. This is a method transferable to other material culture. During the course, a range of natural scientific methods will be discussed that are used to learn about the entire biography of the objects from the origin of raw materials (lead isotope analysis), their production (trace elemental analysis, metallography, traceology), and use (traceology) to their eventual discarding including what happened to them chemically after their deposition (corrosion studies). Students will learn to analyse the data source-critically and choose which methods to use to investigate the material further. To this end, they will be able to discuss which information each method provides and judge the suitability of the objects for such analysis.

The course consists of various lectures in which different copper alloys, metal objects from several periods, and analysis methods are introduced. In addition, there will be seminars in which the students can test and experience some methods themselves and discuss their results.

Form of teaching

The course will consist of lectures, seminars and group work. Seminars and group work

are mandatory. Preparation and other information for these sessions will be presented during the lectures.

Language of instruction: English and Swedish
The course language will be English and Swedish.

Assessment

A written essay and active participations in the seminars will be used to assess the students understanding of the course material.

If a student who has twice received a failing grade for the same examination component wishes to change examiner ahead of the next examination session, such a request should be made to the department in writing and should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance). If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for study support for students with disabilities, the examiner may, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, decide to allow the student to sit an adjusted exam or alternative form of assessment. In the event that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, students are to be guaranteed at least three examination sessions (including the ordinary examination session) over a period of at least one year, but no more than two years after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to internships and professional placements (VFU), although this is restricted to just one additional examination session.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Excellent (A), Very good (B), Good (C), Satisfactory (D), Sufficient (E) and Fail (F).

Course evaluation

Students have the opportunity to evaluate the course. The results of and possible changes to the course will be shared with students who participated in the evaluation and students who are starting the course.