



## DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

### **AE1023 European rock art, 15 credits**

Hällristningar i Europa, 15 högskolepoäng

*First Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Historical Studies on 2021-12-10 to be valid from 2022-08-31, autumn semester of 2022.

*Field of education:* Science 50% and Arts 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**

General entry requirement is a completed course in archaeology.

#### **Learning outcomes**

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

*Knowledge and understanding*

- gain an overview of the European rock art heritage
- understand different types of images and styles in their geographic and temporal context on a basic level
- understand the outlines of the social background of the various rock art traditions

*Competence and skills*

- identify rock art images from different regions and periods
- plan and carry out a basic rock art documentation
- give a general interpretation of rock art in line with the current state of the art

*Judgement and approach*

- evaluate different kinds of rock art documentation
- compare and analyse critically different interpretations of rock art
- appraise on a general level approaches to the rock art heritage as a touristic factor in terms of presentation vs. preservation

**Course content**

This course provides an introduction to Europe's rock art heritage which will be contextualised in relation to the socio-political conditions in which the rock carvings were created to demonstrate that these were not just beautiful image motifs, but carried meaning. Various newer and older documentation methods will also be introduced during the course and critically assessed because they have a profound impact on the interpretation of rock art.

The course will also provide an introduction to the preparation and presentation of rock art as cultural heritage sites from a tourism and outreach perspective. In this context, the potential for rock art sites to be listed as national or world cultural heritage sites is critically discussed touching on sustainability issues concerning the relationship between the impact of tourism and preservation concerns.

*Sub-courses*

**1. Rock art in Europe and Scandinavia** (*Hällristningar i europa och skandinavien*), 7.5 credits

Grading scale: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U)

This module introduces the European rock art material with a focus on Scandinavia. This part discusses the range and complexity of images and styles in different regions. This will include the chronology and placement of rock art to increase our understanding of the meaning of rock art.

**2. Approaches to rock art – Theories, methods, interpretations** (*Hällristningsforskning och dokumentation - teori, metod, tolkning*), 7.5 credits

Grading scale: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U)

This module will focus on a critical discussion on the challenge that older documentation methods pose to modern rock art research. This will be contrasted by introducing newer documentation methods and the new interpretations that they enabled. In a wider sense, this part will demonstrate the value of documenting

rock art to increase its visibility and preserve it for future generations. This also considers how the images can be presented to a wider audience to ensure the sustainability and long-term survival of the rock art cultural heritage. In addition, the course will critically discuss theoretical approaches that emerged with the new documentation methods and led to new interpretations of prehistoric living conditions.

### **Form of teaching**

The course will be based on lectures, seminars, workshops, and self-organised learning.

*Language of instruction:* English and Swedish

Scandinavian or English languages will occur on the course.

### **Assessment**

In both courses, a written essay will be used to assess the students' understanding of the course material. Furthermore, each student is required to give a presentation at a seminar.

A student who has taken two exams in a course or part of a course without obtaining a pass grade is entitled to the nomination of another examiner. The student needs to contact the department for a new examiner, preferably in writing, and this 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 special educational support, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, the examiner may 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.

### **Grades**

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

The more detailed grading scale allows for a better self-control and self-assessment of students learning progress.

### **Course evaluation**

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.