



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

AE1086 Documentation and interpretation of Rock Art, 7.5 credits

Dokumentation och tolkning av hällbilder, 7,5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Historical Studies on 2020-12-03 and was last revised on 2021-12-10 to be valid from 2022-01-17, spring semester of 2022.

Field of education: Arts 50% and Science 50%

Department: Department of Historical Studies

Position in the educational system

Stand-alone course, summer course, open to anyone who is eligible to attend higher education.

Main field of studies

Archaeology

Specialization

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

Entry requirements

Must have attended at least one university course.

Learning outcomes

The course focusses on practical, theoretical aspects of rock art research and sustainable cultural heritage management. This includes the implications of different documentation methods and interpretations of rock art images as well as introducing cultural heritage on the example of the UNESCO world heritage site "Rock art in Tanum". The course follows a hands-on teaching philosophy.

Knowledge and understanding

account for, and have an understanding of documentation and interpretation of rock art as well as theoretical, methodological, legal, ethical implications of sustainable cultural heritage management.

basic understanding of the concept of a "biological-cultural heritage" and how it safeguards the sustainable development of cultural heritage protecting and promoting both nature and culture.

basic of how research into rock art can add a deep-time perspective to problems captured in the UN sustainability goals, for example, the role of rock art in the long-term stability of social institutions during the Bronze Age in relation to goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions)

Competence and skills

independently carry out the documentation of a rock art locale choosing and using the appropriate methods

critically discuss archaeological and public interpretations of the rock paintings based on course knowledge content

critically discuss issues involving cultural heritage management including sustainable use and preservation to secure the rock art heritage for future generations

Judgement and approach

evaluate the usefulness of various documentation approaches in the documentation of different rock art locales and for different documentation purposes

evaluate on a basic level different theories and their usefulness in interpreting rock art

The course is sustainability-related, which means that at least one of the learning outcomes clearly shows that the course content meets at least one of the University of Gothenburg's confirmed sustainability criteria.

Course content

The course introduces concepts and theories of rock art research and cultural heritage management and provide the opportunity to experience documentation methods first hand. We will discuss questions and issues surrounding rock art research, sustainable cultural heritage management and Bronze Age society. We will ask important questions about social inequality, ecological sustainability, gender aspects, and conflict. The methodological and theoretical aspects of rock art that will be discussed include landscapes, distribution patterns, elevation models and shore displacement. This includes a strong focus on preserving cultural heritage and the environment. Apart from

introducing rock art as a global heritage, the course will use the case of the rock art in Tanum to discuss how to negotiate the requirements for protection of the UNESCO world cultural heritage, the heritage of the recent past, and nature within the concept of a "biological cultural heritage" (biologiskt kulturarv) envisioned by the Swedish National Heritage Board. This will highlight the need to safeguard the rock art by implementing a plan for sustainable documentation, investigation, and presentation to be able to educate society and future generations about our shared human ancestry. This also includes concrete issues of preserving, cultivating and making cultural heritage accessible in the long term. An important aspect is then how to prevent the weathering process of the rock carvings, which is a result of acidification, increased visitor pressure and ongoing climate change. In this regard, an important aspect is then how to tackle weathering processes, which result from acidification, increased visitor pressure and ongoing climate change. The students will also gain a basic insight into institutions involved in rock art research like the Swedish Rock Art Research Archives.

Research interest: Archaeology, rock art, documentation, sustainability, 3D recording

Form of teaching

Lectures, workshops, and seminars.

The course has a hands-on outlook and the students will gain experience in various documentation methods.

Assessment

There will be a group and an individual assignment to evaluate the learned content of the course.

Submissions after the deadline will prevent receiving the highest possible grade (VG). Verbal participation will be considered should the final examinations be between two grades.

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. The same applies to placements and professional placements (VFU), although this is restricted to just one additional examination session.

Grades

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

Course evaluation