



## DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

### **AE2035 Archaeology as sustainability science, 15 credits**

Arkeologi som hållbarhetsvetenskap, 15 högskolepoäng

*Second Cycle*

---

#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Historical Studies on 2020-01-24 and was last revised on 2021-05-19 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**

*Main field of studies*

Archaeology

*Specialization*

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

#### **Entry requirements**

Admission to the course requires a Bachelor of Arts or the equivalent of 180 HEC, with 90 HEC in Archaeology, Classical Archaeology and Ancient History, Conservation, Cultural Heritage Studies, Environmental Studies, Development Studies, History, Human Ecology, Human Geography, Social Anthropology, or other field that can be considered equivalent.

Applicants must demonstrate knowledge of English at level English 6 or equivalent from Swedish Upper Secondary School or the equivalent level of an internationally recognized test, for instance TOEFL or IELTS.

#### **Learning outcomes**

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

*Knowledge and understanding*

- discuss in depth the significance of the long temporal perspective to understand ecological, economic, and social sustainable development
- independently problematize how archaeological perspectives practically and theoretically addresses contemporary sustainability challenges
- make a critical and systematic account of the fields' core research topics, theories, and concepts

*Competence and skills*

- motivate the selection and application of relevant theories and methods
- make an informed selection of data for analysis
- demonstrate command of the research field by writing and defending a scientific essay

*Judgement and approach*

- independently formulate relevant detailed research questions and constructively relate them to the current state of the international research field
- evaluate and analyze scientific as well as popular narratives about the past from a sustainability perspective
- critically discuss the application of archaeological knowledge in sustainability scholarship
- independently reflect over the ethical and moral issues that different kinds of historiographies linked to sustainability presents

The course is sustainability-focused, 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. The content also constitutes the course's main focus.

**Course content**

The course offers in-depth knowledge about how archaeological research and the archaeological scientific perspective contribute to a deeper understanding of ecological, economic, and social sustainability and sustainable development. A series of topics elucidate archaeology's contributions to sustainability scholarship, for instance urban planning, agriculture, and food and freshwater security. Topics are critically discussed within different theoretical and methodological frameworks, with an emphasis on anthropocentric and interdisciplinary historical ecology. The course offers a broad understanding of the fields' different vantage points and possibilities, which are further detailed from selected case studies. The course applies a global perspective, with case

studies from both the Global South and North.

#### *Sub-courses*

1. **Theory and method** (*Teori och metod*), 5 credits  
Grading scale: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U)
2. **Case studies** (*Fallstudier*), 5 credits  
Grading scale: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U)
3. **Individual assignment** (*Självständigt arbete*), 5 credits  
Grading scale: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U)

#### **Form of teaching**

The course is in its entirety online-based. Instruction and modes of teaching include online lectures, group discussions, seminars, and individual assignments, and are focused on independent and individual study of course literature. Following the course requires access to a computer with internet connection.

*Language of instruction:* English

#### **Assessment**

Course examination includes active participation, obligatory seminar exercises, and written assignments. Students unable to participate in an obligatory seminar exercises will be given a supplementary assignment.

If a student, who has failed the same examined element on two occasions, wishes to change examiner before the next examination session, such a request is to be submitted to the department in writing and granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

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, though at most two years after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to work experience and 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). To Pass the course requires Pass on all three sub-courses. To Pass the course with Distinction requires Pass with Distinction on the sub-course Individual assignment as well as on at least one other sub-course.

**Course evaluation**

The course manager is responsible for systematically collecting students' written evaluations of the course at its conclusion. 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.