



## DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

### **AE2060 Documentation and interpretation of rock art, 15 credits**

Dokumentation och tolkning av hällbilder, 15 högskolepoäng

*Second Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Historical Studies on 2013-09-23 and was last revised on 2019-05-07 to be valid from 2019-09-01, autumn semester of 2019.

*Field of education:* Arts 80% and Science 20%

*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 higher education credits, of which 90 credits within the disciplines of Archaeology or Classical Archaeology and Ancient History.

#### **Learning outcomes**

A student who has participated in the course is expected to be able to

*Knowledge and understanding*

- in an advanced and specialized way give an account of documentation and interpretation of rock art that indicates a critical understanding and awareness of its theoretical, methodological and historical background

*Skills and capabilities*

- independently carry out documentation of a rock art site and with appropriate methods integrate knowledge about analysing, evaluating and managing methods and questions about documentation and interpretation of rock art
- show general familiarity with, and critically discuss, the archaeological and public interpretations of rock art

#### *Critical thinking and approach*

- evaluate the usability of various methods of documentation for different types of rock art locations
- critically analyse and relate to theories and methods prevalent in contemporary research
- identify her or his need of further knowledge and to be responsible for his or her learning process

#### **Course content**

The course covers a range of theoretical and practical aspects of the documentation and interpretation of rock art. It is organized in three main sections: one distance-based sequence focusing on theory, one applied sequence conducted in the field, and one distance-based advanced study project. Various types of instruction are used in the course, such as lectures, seminars, fieldwork, advanced study project and group collaborations. In the latter, part of the coursework is conducted in the form of student cooperation in teams, where various assignments and problems are defined and solved collectively. The examination of the course is divided into two individual sequences; (i) a theoretical and field based sequence (7 hp) and an (ii) advanced study project (8 hp)

(i) The theory and field based sequence (7 hp) is partly distance-based, with instruction provided through an online platform. The sequence gives a detailed overview of previously and currently dominant perspectives within rock art research. Some of the important aspects covered are, for instance, landscape perspectives, history of research, image interpretation, power and gender perspectives as well as other societal approaches. The field part of the sequence is conducted within the Tanum World Heritage Area and in the Swedish Rock Art Research Archives' facilities at the Vitlycke Rock Art Museum. It is taught in the form of lectures and seminars, and theory is applied in practice through fieldwork and documentation work. The fieldwork covers both elementary and more advanced knowledge of documentation of rock art, and introduces a variety of documentation methods: rubbing method, dabbing technique, painting, digital photography, digital photography with "Structure for Motion" technique, laser scanning, GIS and measurements with GPS/Totalstation. Students also acquire basic familiarity with the work of the Swedish Rock Art Research Archives in collecting and making documentation accessible, as well as an overview of other antiquarian, heritage, public, private and administrative institutions that manage rock art.

(ii) The advanced study project (8 hp) is in the form of an article or essay of at least 5,000 words. The project should be a critical, philosophical evaluation of documentation and interpretation of rock art, firmly grounded in course readings. The student will present his or her individual study project in a concluding seminar.

### **Form of teaching**

For a passing grade a fieldwork attendance of at least 75% is required, as this sequence contains elements of assessment. The fieldwork sequence concludes with a mandatory oral group presentation. In addition, course assessment takes the form of a written individual exam and an independent written assignment that the student completes and presents at a concluding seminar or equivalent.

Unless there are practical obstacles, the student is entitled to change examiner after having failed twice in the same examination. A request to change examiner must be submitted in writing to the appropriate director of studies. For students who have failed to pass an exam, another will be organized in connection with the first one. A student who has been awarded a passing grade in an examination may not take it again to earn a higher grade.

*Language of instruction:* English

### **Assessment**

#### **Grades**

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U). For a grade of Pass with Distinction (VG) on the whole course a student must have earned at least the grade of Pass in the first sequence (7hp) and Pass with Distinction (VG) in the second individual sequence (8hp).

### **Course evaluation**

null

### **Additional information**

Lectures will take place in Gothenburg and/or on the premises of the Swedish Rock Art Research Archives in the Vitlycke Museum of Rock Art, and fieldwork will be carried out within the Tanum World Heritage Area. Students are expected to bear all costs of travel, accommodation and other living expenses, unless the department is able to provide financial assistance. The language of instruction is English.