Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

ARKM35, Archaeology and Ancient History: Master's Thesis - Historical Archaeology, 30 credits

Arkeologi och antikens historia: Examensarbete för masterexamen - Historisk arkeologi, 30 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2025-06-11 (U 2025/539) and was last revised on 2026-09-10 (U 2026/557). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2026-09-13 and is valid from the spring semester 2027.

General information

The course is included as a compulsory degree project in the Master's Programme in Archaeology and Ancient History - Theory and Practice (HAAAH). It is also offered as a freestanding course.

The course can normally be included in a first or second-cycle degree.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study	*Specialisation*
Archaeology and Ancient History with specialization in Historical Archaeology	A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- be able to give a detailed account of key concepts, theories and issues, including both an overview of the subject area and in-depth knowledge of the parts of the subject chosen for the degree project, as well as insight into current research and development work,

- give a detailed account and description of the research methods relevant to the chosen subject used in the specialisation historical archaeology,

Competence and skills

- be able to identify, formulate and argue, with a high degree of independence, general problems and issues relevant to the specialisation historical archaeology,
- be able to collect and process complex material with good insight and apply advanced qualitative and quantitative methodology relevant to the theory and question,
- be able to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and manage complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information,
- be able to independently write and defend a scientific paper that makes a contribution to knowledge and research in the field,
- be able to independently carry out a critical review and put in others' works in a further theoretical perspective,

Judgement and approach

- in the degree project, make assessments informed by relevant research, social and ethical aspects and also demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work,
- identify their need for additional knowledge and to take responsibility for their knowledge development,

Course content

The course consists of a degree project where the student independently works on a chosen problem area and applies relevant methodology and theory. In consultation with the supervisor, the student chooses a topic for the degree project. This should be in the main field of Archaeology and Ancient History with the specialisation Historical Archaeology. The student is assigned a supervisor with expertise in historical archaeology.

Course design

The course consists largely of independent work. Teaching consists of compulsory seminars (5-7) and supervision (20 hours). Supervision time is primarily limited to the semester in which the student was first enrolled on the course.

Compulsory attendance at seminars implies participation in at least 80% of the teaching components in the course. If the total participation is between 70 and 80%, the student must complete a supplementary assignment according to the lecturer's instructions to receive a grade of Pass for the course.

If participation falls below 70%, the course will not be awarded a final grade, and the student will be instructed to repeat the module when space is available. However, if a student has been unable to participate due to circumstances beyond their control, for example due to an accident, sudden illness or similar, they will be given the opportunity to complete one or more supplementary assignments according to the

lecturer's instructions in order to receive a grade of Pass for the course. This also applies to students who are carrying out an assignment as an elected student representative.

Assessment

The assessment consists of the student independently writing a degree project, which is presented at a public seminar. The assessment also includes a critical review of another degree project.

Degree projects awarded a grade of Pass at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology can be registered in the LUP Student Papers database if the student so wishes. The student is responsible for uploading the passed degree project to LUP Student Papers as a PDF file.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
The degree project and the critical review are assessed separately and awarded one of the grades Fail (U), Pass (G), or Pass with Distinction (VG). The final grade for the course is determined by the grade awarded for the degree project.

Entry requirements

Admission to the course requires ARKH04 (Historical Archaeology: Bachelor's course, 30 credits), 30 credits in Archaeology and Ancient History at advanced level, and English 6, or equivalent knowledge.

Further information

- The course is offered at the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, Lund University.
- The course replaces ARKM22.
- The number of credits allocated for course content that is shared in whole or in part with another course can only be credited once for a degree.
- For further details, see the current registration and information material.