

ARKN11, Archaeology and Ancient History: Archaeological Theory and Material Culture, 15 credits

Arkeologi och antikens historia: Arkeologisk teori och materiell kultur, 15

högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the programmes director by delegation from the pro-dean for first- and second-cycle studies on 2013-12-18. The syllabus comes into effect 2013-12-18 and is valid from the autumn semester 2014.

General information

The course is offered as a free-standing course. It can normally be included as part of a first- or second-cycle degree.

Language of instruction: English

The course is normally taught in English. It can be taught in Swedish if an agreement is reached by both the lecturer and the students. Such an agreement would depend on both the lecturer and the students having a good knowledge of Swedish.

Main field of study

Archaeology and Ancient History with specialization in Archaeology

Archaeology and Ancient History with specialization in Classical Archaeology and Ancient History

Archaeology and Ancient History with specialization in Historical Archaeology

Archaeology and Ancient History

Archaeology and Ancient History with specialization in Historical Osteology

Specialisation

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

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Learning outcomes

On completion of the course the students shall

Knowledge and understanding

- be able to reflect on and describe in speech and writing the links between theory, method and material culture
- be able to account for current theoretical and methodological perspectives within Archaeology and Ancient History
- be able to explain how different theoretical and methodological perspectives can generate different interpretations of the past.

Competence and skills

- be able to highly independently defend interpretations of the past based on varying theoretical and methodological positions
- be able to write a specialised study focusing on archaeological theory and material culture.

Judgement and approach

- be able to in speech and writing reflect and take a critical position on the consequences of theoretical approaches in previous and current research in Archaeology and Ancient History
- be able to critically discuss their own theoretical perspectives in relation to the course contents.

Course content

Material culture is key to archaeology. Objects do not speak to us, however, so archaeologist must pose the questions that generate knowledge of the past. This course deals with the debate in archaeological theory of the recent decades, focusing especially on its impact on the study of material culture. Material culture is an interdisciplinary field affecting key aspects of archaeology, such as the relationship between form, function and meaning, the relationship between spaces, bodies and objects, artisan skills and identity etc. Consequently, a number of different perspectives within a wide field of scholarly disciplines are addressed, not only archaeology and anthropology but also art history, museum studies, sociology, philosophy, psychology and cognitive science. The course discusses these different theoretical approaches to the study of material culture from different ages, aiming to encourage students to develop a critical understanding of the relationship between theory, method and material culture.

Course design

Teaching consists of lectures, exercises and 8-10 compulsory seminars.

Assessment

The assessment is normally based on individual written assignments and oral group reports. Other forms of examination may occur as a result of an agreement between the lecturer and students.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course students must have completed course ARKK04 Archaeology level 3, ARKH04 Historical Archaeology level 3, AKSA04 Classical Archaeology and Ancient History level 3, HOSA04 Historical Osteology level 3, or the equivalent.

Further information

1. The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree. For further details see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.
2. Students on the Master's programme in Archaeology and Ancient History (HAAAH) are given priority for admission to the course. All students must have good written and oral proficiency in English.
3. The course is offered at the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, Lund University.