



Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences

MNXG03, Scientific Dating in Archaeology and Heritage Management, 3 credits

Dateringsmetoder inom arkeologi och kulturarv, 3 högskolepoäng
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Study programmes board, Faculty of Science on 2022-04-29 and was last revised on 2024-06-20 by The Education Board of Faculty of Science. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2024-06-20 and is valid from the spring semester 2025.

General information

This is an elective first cycle course. The course is an interdisciplinary course at the faculty of natural sciences and is open to students from all faculties.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study *Specialisation*

- G2F, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

The overarching aim of the course is that the student should acquire basic knowledge in scientific dating methods that are applicable in archaeology as well as cultural heritage research and management. Major emphasis is placed on the limitations and critical selection of dating methods for an optimal dating strategy in relation to relevant issues in these subject areas.

Knowledge and understanding

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to:

- account for the most important dating methods in archaeology and cultural heritage research and how they can be applied in different practical contexts
- explain the basic physical principles of the dating methods

Competence and skills

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to:

- discuss relevant dating techniques and choose optimal methodology to apply to different archaeological situations
- plan and justify a basic scientific dating strategy in archaeology and cultural heritage research
- carry out sampling for commonly occurring dating methods
- communicate the aim and results of the dating methods with both professionals[HA1] and researchers in the subject area

Judgement and approach

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to:

- critically assess and interpret results based on scientific dating methods
- evaluate what is possible and impossible to date with different scientific dating methods

Course content

The course covers the following scientific dating methods:

- Radiocarbon dating
- Dendrochronology
- Luminescence dating

Furthermore, a general overview of a selection of scientific dating methods that are less commonly used in archaeology and cultural heritage research is given.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, exercises and project work. Participation in exercises and project work as well as associated components is compulsory.

The course is offered mainly as a distance learning course and makes use of an online learning platform and/or digital tools. Students are required to participate under these conditions, and to have access to a computer with an Internet connection as well as functioning speakers, microphone and web camera. The department will provide information about the technical requirements.

The course includes a compulsory field and laboratory exercise in or close to Lund.

Assessment

Examination takes place continuously during the course through digital multiple choice test, exercises, and through a project assignment at the end of the course.

Students who do not pass the regular exam will have an additional opportunity to re-sit the exam soon thereafter.

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

To pass in the whole course, passed digital multiple choice tests, passed project assignment, and attendance at exercises are required.

Entry requirements

Admission to the course requires at least 60 credits in archaeology, geoarchaeology or other higher education of relevance for practical work in the archaeology and cultural heritage sector or equivalent skills acquired through multiannual work, and English 6/B.

Further information

Knowledge in basic geology or earth sciences are recommended, but not a requirement.