

## **SASH79, Barbarians and Romans, 7.5 credits**

*Barbarer och romare, 7,5 högskolepoäng*

**First Cycle / Grundnivå**

---

### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by the programmes director by delegation from the pro-dean for first- and second-cycle studies on 2014-10-22 and was last revised on 2026-06-18 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology (U 2026/431). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2026-06-18 and is valid from the spring semester 2027.

### **General information**

The course is offered as a freestanding course. It can normally be included in a first or second cycle degree.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of study*

*Specialisation*

-

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

### **Learning outcomes**

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

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- account for the relationship between the Roman empire and the cultures outside its borders, focusing especially on the Celts and Germanic peoples between 200 BCE and 600 CE,
- account for the material and cultural manifestations of the cultural encounter between the Roman empire and its neighbours in the period 200 BCE to 600 CE,

## Competence and skills

- use and examine key concepts such as ethnicity, social identity and romanisation,
- at a basic level apply the source material and methods used in the study of the cultural encounter between the Roman empire and its neighbours
- assimilate simple scholarly texts and summarise the contents

## Judgement and approach

- at a basic level apply source criticism to the use of historical and archaeological sources from the Roman era
- take a position on and apply different theories of cultural encounters

## Course content

The course deals with the relationship between the Roman empire and the cultures outside its borders, focusing especially on the Celts and the Germans in the period 200 BCE to 600 CE. Particular attention is paid to the social, economic and political processes that took place in the border regions, and how these shaped both Roman and non-Roman societies. The course also covers military integration, discussing recruitment, alliances and the incorporation of non-Roman groups into the Roman army in relation to identity, power and cultural change. Finally, the course addresses the classic question of the role of the barbarians in the fall of the Western Roman Empire, focusing on how modern research perspectives have re-evaluated older explanatory models concerning invasion, migration and the transformation of the empire.

## Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, 1-2 compulsory seminars and 1-2 compulsory study visits.

If, due to circumstances beyond their control, for example accidents, sudden illness or similar, students are unable to carry out a compulsory component, the University is responsible for ensuring that an equivalent alternative or another time for the component is offered. This also applies to students participating in activities in an elected position as a student representative.

## Assessment

The assessment is based on a written home assignment.

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: U=Fail, E=Sufficient, D=Satisfactory, C=Good, B=Very Good, A=Excellent

The grades awarded are A, B, C, D, E or Fail. The highest grade is A and the lowest passing grade is E. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail.

## **Entry requirements**

General and English 6

## **Further information**

- The course is offered at the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, Lund University.
- 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.