



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Department of Cultural Sciences

4AE435 Kulturarv, framtiden och hur man skapar ett mer hållbart samhälle, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Heritage, the future, and how to create a more sustainable society, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Archaeology

Subject Group

Archaeology

Level of classification

Second Level

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved by Faculty of Arts and Humanities 2019-01-08
The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2019

Prerequisites

BA in any area of Heritage Studies or related subjects.

Objectives

After completing the course, the student will be able to:

- account for various ways in which heritage is related to the future,
- compare and contrast different strategies of planning for a sustainable future in relation to specific examples of heritage management,
- exemplify how heritage may contribute to creating more sustainable societies.

Content

It is often claimed that heritage is to be preserved for the benefit of future generations. In this course, we study the underlying assumptions as well as implications for making heritage management and the surrounding society more sustainable. The course addresses the following issues:

- How are heritage and future-thinking connected with each other?
- What does it mean to preserve heritage for the benefit of future generations?
- How can we plan for the future in present-day heritage management?
- How might future society be improved through heritage and become more sustainable?

The course starts with an introduction to how contemporary heritage practices have an impact on the future. We also discuss how the way we perceive the future in the present has an impact on how heritage is managed. We then critically evaluate the status quo in thinking about the future in the preservation, conservation, management, staging, interpretation and contemporary uses of heritage. We present and discuss how perceptions of the future inform specific strategies in heritage management and explore emerging ways of thinking how heritage as a tool can contribute to planning for more sustainable societies in the future. The main emphasis lies on tangible cultural heritage but intangible and natural heritage will be discussed as well. Specific case-studies include World Heritage Sites such as the Bamiyan Buddhas in Afghanistan and the Acropolis of Athens in Greece, and issues to do with reconstruction in post-war Syria. The course draws directly on the work of the UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures at Linnaeus University.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is in the form of lectures and individual supervision. Teaching resources will be made available on an on-line learning platform.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E, Fx or F. Examination is by written hand-in tasks and presentations.

The grade A constitutes the highest grade on the scale and the remaining grades follow in descending order where the grade E is the lowest grade on the scale that will result in a pass. The grade F means that the student's performance is assessed as fail. For students who do not pass the first examinations, retake examinations are provided in accordance with local regulations at the university.

Course Evaluation

At the end of the course, a course evaluation is conducted. Results and analysis of the course evaluation are communicated to the students who have taken the course and the students who are taking the course when it is offered the next time. The evaluation is anonymous. The course evaluation is filed according to departmental regulations.

Other

Grade criteria for the A–F scale are communicated to the student through a special document. The student is to be informed about the grade criteria for the course by the start of the course at the latest.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Obligatory reading

Cameron, Catherine (2010). The unnatural history of heritage: what's the future for the past? *Journal of Heritage Tourism* 5(3), 203-218. 15 pages.

Högberg, Anders, Cornelius Holtorf, Sarah May and Gustav Wollentz (2017). No Future in Archaeological Heritage Management? *World Archaeology* 49 (5), 639-647, 8 pages, open access at <https://doi.org/10.1080/00438243.2017.1406398>

Holtorf, Cornelius, and Anders Högberg (2014). Communicating with Future Generations: What are the Benefits of Preserving for Future Generations? Nuclear Power and Beyond. *European Journal of Post-Classical Archaeologies* 4: 315–330. 16 pages, Open access at http://www.postclassical.it/PCA_vol.4_files/PCA%204_Holtorf-Hogberg-1.pdf

Holtorf, Cornelius (2016). Why cultural heritage is not ‘at risk’ (in Syria or anywhere). *Heritage for Transformation*, open access at <https://heritagefortransformation.wordpress.com/2016/04/04/why-cultural-heritage-is-not-at-risk-in-syria-or-anywhere/>

Holtorf, Cornelius (2018) Embracing change: how cultural resilience is increased through cultural heritage. *World Archaeology* 50 (4), 12 pages, open access at DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00438243.2018.1510340>

Holtorf, Cornelius and Anders Högberg, eds (2019) *Heritage and the Future*. London and New York: Routledge. Forthcoming.

Spennemann, Dirk. H. R. (2007) Futurist Rhetoric in US Historic Preservation: A Review of Current Practice. *International Review on Public and Non Profit Marketing* 4 (1/2): 91–99. 9 pages.

Zetterström-Sharp, Johanna (2015) Heritage as Future-Making: Aspiration and Common Destiny in Sierra Leone. *International Journal of Heritage Studies* 21 (6): 609–627. 19 pages, doi:10.1080/13527258.2014.973060.