



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Department of Cultural Sciences

4AE440 Hällristningar i ett globalt perspektiv I, 7,5 högskolepoäng
World Rock Art I, 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 2020-01-22
The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2020

Prerequisites
Archaeology 90 credits, including an independent project comprising at least 15 credits, or the equivalent.

Objectives

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

- discuss the oldest symbolic expressions and how they relate to the early history of humankind,
- account for major rock art traditions in the world, their characteristics and how previous and contemporary archaeologists interpret these traditions,
- account for major historical interpretations and contemporary theoretical perspectives on rock art from a global perspective,
- discuss methods for dating rock art and what problems and opportunities they present,
- discuss methods for documenting rock art and what problems and opportunities they present,
- discuss the main pros and cons of using anthropological and historical sources, folk lore, etc., in the study of rock art,
- discuss the main pros and cons of using archaeological methods in the study of rock art,
- discuss how rock art can be used to study gender relations,
- discuss the significance of this rock art for today's societies.

Content

The course introduces some of the most well known rock art traditions in the world, from Africa to Europe; from Australia to America; and from Asia to Oceania. It introduces general research history and important discoveries, as well as major interpretative perspectives in today's research on rock art, their meaning and significance. Methods for understanding historical and contemporary rock art traditions are introduced, discussed and evaluated, along with traditional and modern technology to document and examine historical and contemporary rock art traditions. The course also introduces students to tools for examining gender relations through the study of rock art.

Type of Instruction

Teaching consists of a mandatory three day campus meeting, consisting of lectures and seminars. All instruction is in English.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

The course is examined through:

- participation in discussion seminars; based on a selection of texts, the participants discuss articles on a number of problems and opportunities concerning global perspectives on rock art,
- submissions,
- a final report in the form of an essay.

Examination is conducted in English. In order to receive the grade of Pass, the student must achieve the objectives. Grading criteria for the grade of Pass with Distinction will be specified in writing when the course starts. For students who do not pass their first examinations, retake examinations are provided in accordance with Local regulations for courses and examinations at the first and second levels at Linnaeus University. If the university has decided that a student has the right to special educational support due to a disability, the examiner may offer an adapted test or allow the student to conduct the test in an alternative form.

Course Evaluation

During or shortly after the course, a course evaluation is conducted. Results and analysis of the course evaluation are promptly communicated to the students who have taken the course. Students who are taking the course when it is offered the next time are informed of the results at the start of the course. The evaluation is anonymous.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

David, Bruno & McNiven, Ian (eds) (2018). *The Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology and Anthropology of Rock Art*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (the latest edition), selected parts, ca 750p. Available as an ebook online, through the university library.

Lorblanchet, Michel & Bahn, Paul G. *The first artists: in search of the world's oldest art*. London: Thames and Hudson. the latest edition, 296 p.

HaysGilpin, Kelley *Ambiguous images: gender and rock art*. Walnut Creek: AltaMira Press. the latest edition, 247 p.

Articles for the discussion seminar, provided during the course, ca. 250 p.

Additional study material

McDonald, Jo & Veth, Peter (eds.). (2012). *A companion to rock art*. Chichester: WileyBlackwell. ISBN 978-1-4443-3424-1, 680 pages.

Nash, George & Masel, Aron (eds) (2018). *Narratives and journeys in rock art: a reader*. Oxford: Archaeopress. ISBN 9781784915605 684 p.