F. ARK Archaeological Topic A – Textile Archaeology – a hands-on approach, 15 ECTS
Autumn semester 2016

Content
Throughout prehistory, textiles were considered valuable goods, being utilized not only for clothing but also for furnishing, tapestry, tablecloth, bedding, sacks, sails and tents, and in religious rituals. Over time the production, organization and distribution of textiles underwent considerable transformation, although these changes did not take place at the same time and in the same manner all over Europe. Whether the settlement was large or small, textile manufacture would have taken up a great deal of time. Knowledge and ability to produce textiles must have been lodged in more than one individual, and several would have been involved in the production process: the harvesting of fibres, preparing them for spinning, weaving, various finishing processes and finally sewing them into clothing and other products. The manufacturing of textiles was a result of complex interactions between resources and technology within society, and depended on, for example resources, state of technology and needs.

In this course the students will be introduced to and receive basic training in the analysis of textiles and textile technology as well as how new scientific methods and theoretical approaches can be applied to textile research. Furthermore, the course will cover a wide geographic area from Scandinavia to the Middle East.

This course is aimed especially at archaeologists and others interested who will gain knowledge of how to include textiles and textile production in a general archaeological discussion on ancient societies.

For more information about CTR: Center for Textile Research

Learning Outcome
The course aims to provide students with an understanding of the importance of production processes and methods of analysis of textile and textile production in prehistory.

This will enable students specifically to:
- understand the role of textiles and textile production
- address and discuss textile and textile production based on analysis of archaeological textiles, textile tools and contexts.
- understand how results from archaeological textile research can be integrated in a more general archaeological discussion/interpretation.
- gain insight in pertinent theoretical and methodological approaches in textile research.

Teaching and learning methods
The teaching involves lectures, practical exercises/training and workshops.

Andersson Strand, E. B., Gebauer Thomsen, L., Cutler, J. 2011, From tools to textiles, a manual for recording, analysing and interpreting textile tools.


Further bibliography will be provided on the first day of the course and via ABSALON

Remarks

This course is suitable students in both prehistoric and classical archaeology and international students. It will be obvious to use the course as Archaeological Theme II (Selective study). Curriculum for Master’s Programme in Prehistoric Archaeology. The 2008 Curriculum.

For more information please contact

Eva Andersson Strand

evaandersson@hum.ku.dk

Sign up

Self Service at KUnet

Application for individual elective study

Send to Hanne Busch: busch@hum.ku.dk

Exam (Skriftlig hjemmeopgave)

Credit

15 ECTS

Type of assessment

Written assignment

Marking scale

7-point grading scale

Criteria for exam assessment

Studieordninger på Forhistorisk Arkæologi

Workload

Category Hours
Lectures 1
Total 0

Preliminary program

Thursdays 10.00-15.00 (The course will start September 8)

1. Introduction to archaeological textiles and textile production
2. Practical training in basic textile techniques, fibre preparation/spinning and plant dyeing
3. Practical training in basic textile techniques, weaving and set-up on a warp weighted loom, weaving on a two-beam loom, tablet weaving
4. Archaeological textiles preservation and conservation, analyzing including microscopic analysis
5. Skin preparation Archaeological skin preservation and analyzing, including microscopic analysis
6. European textiles and overview
7. Visit to the National Museum of Denmark, textile collection
8. Visit to the National museum of Denmark Textile Conservation Center Brede
9. Science and textile research: Protein and DNA analyses, Strontium Isotope analyses
10. Textile Tool Database, design and practice
11. Visit to Visit to Ørholm, archaeological textile tool database recording,
   12. The Vorbasse textile project,
       Textile tool database practice analyzing
13. Seamless: A social approach to the materiality of textiles
       Textile tool database practice analyzing
14. The landscape of textile production
       Training in context analysis
15. Dissemination of the results provided by each team