

Syllabus

Gotland Archaeological Field School

July 16 - August 10, 2018

Directors

Dan Carlsson. PhD Associate Professor. Arendus AB.

Research

This year we will be excavating a Viking Age site on the southeastern coast of Gotland in the parish of Eke. The landscape is littered with remains from the Bronze Age, Viking Age and Middle Ages including cairns, stone walls, grave mounds, ship settings, petroglyphs and a hill-fort. The location is several hundred meters from the sea, but in previous time periods the shoreline likely came right up to the site and the area could have been used as a harbor site or settlement. There have been few excavations in this area, but the landscape has clearly been in use for centuries, if not millennia. Our goal with this excavation is to formulate an understanding of the activities that took place in this certain location.

Course objectives

After completing the course, the student will be able to distinguish different archaeological finds and materials, recognize changes in stratigraphy and clean, measure, weigh, photograph and catalogue finds. The student will also learn how to write basic archaeological documentation and reports, read academic texts and discuss theories and methods in a group environment. The student should also be able to theorize about the features and find materials as well as contextualize the excavation to the surrounding landscape and time period.

Applied methods:

- Basic excavation techniques such as use of a trowel (and other excavation tools), stratigraphy identification, measuring, and documentation.
- Field drawings of plans, sections and features.
- Field mapping through use of a total station, theodolite and GPS.
- Find processing including cleaning, measuring, weighing, cataloging, and photographing finds.
- Metal detecting and mapping.
- Photographing trenches and features.
- Filling in basic archaeological documentation forms.

General Course Schedule

The course schedule will be handed out upon arrival. Lectures, seminars and lab work will also be specified at this time. Students are required to do homework during their free time such as evenings and weekends. Homework can entail reading specific texts, preparing for seminars and lectures and writing field notes and trench reports.

The course entails 88 hours of field work, 24 hours of lab work with find processing, 16 hours of excursions and 32 hours of seminars, lectures and applied method exercises.

An example of the possible schedule:

	Week 1 July 16-22	Week 2 July 23-29	Week 3 July 30-Aug 5	Week 4 Aug 6-10
Monday	Introduction Lecture	Excavation	Excavation	Lab work Seminar Lecture
Tuesday	Excursion	Excavation	Excavation	Lab work Seminar Lecture
Wednesday	Excavation Applied methods	Excavation	Excavation	Lab work Seminar Lecture
Thursday	Excavation	Excavation	Excavation	Lab work Seminar Lecture
Friday	Lecture Seminar	Excavation	Lab work Seminar Lecture	Presentations Course end
Saturday	Free	Excursion	Free	
Sunday	Free	Free	Excursion: Medieval Week	

Grading

% of grade	Activity
30%	Written report and presentation
20%	Excavation – field methods
20%	Finds processing – lab work
10%	Seminars and lectures – attendance and interaction
10%	Field notes
10%	Excursions – attendance and interaction

Attendance policy

A minimum of 80% attendance is required for completing the course. Attendance of all course activities is extremely encouraged except in the case of illness, etc.

Academic credit and transcripts

The field school is not run by a university and therefore cannot provide academic credit in and of itself. The course is RPA registered and represents 6 ECTS points. Students are encouraged to discuss if the course can be used as credit with their university officials **BEFORE** joining the field school.

A transcript will be emailed to you approximately 2 weeks after completion of the field course. If you want your transcript posted to your university, you have to provide us with a postal address **BEFORE** leaving the course. Further information and a reminder of this will occur during the last week of the course.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for attending the course as it is set at a beginner's level. All practical, methodological and theoretical requirements for excavating will be presented in the week before the excavation (week 1 of the course). Students are however required to follow the rules set up by the field school and by Gotland Folk High School regarding conduct and behavior towards other field school students and personnel.

Equipment List

Excavation tools will be provided by the field school. Students are required to bring:

- Clothes for excavating in all weather (i.e. hat, gloves, scarves, rain jacket, rubber boots, excavation boots, etc.). The weather in Sweden during summer can range from 10°-30° Celsius (about 50°-86° Fahrenheit).
- Insect spray and sun protection
- Personal items such as bathing suits, bags/backpacks, sunglasses, money, cellphone, etc.

Accommodation

Full board at Gotland Folk High School in Hemse includes lodging in a double room and three meals per day including weekends. WiFi is included together with a shared laundry room and communal areas. Bed linens and towels are also included. Stationary computers are available at the school together with a separate Skype room for calling family and friends. For more information regarding accommodation please refer all questions to agneta.lindqvist@gotland.se.

Travel

For guidance and additional questions about travel to and from Gotland please contact agneta.lindqvist@gotland.se. There are not meet ups before the course, however, there will be a Facebook group for students of the course where you can interact and ask questions, as well as find useful information regarding the course.

Some useful websites about travel to and from Gotland:

<http://www.destinationgotland.se/en/>

<http://www.gotland.net/en/travel>

Additional Information

Additional information regarding the course can be found on our website <http://gotland-fieldschool.com/> as well as on our social media sites:

Facebook: @GotlandFieldSchool

Twitter: @gotlandarch

Instagram: @gotlandfieldschool

Required reading

All required readings will be presented to the students upon arrival. The literature will be handed out as printed copies or emailed as PDF's. The reading will be done gradually over the course and will be used in seminars and written hand-ins and preparation.

Suggested reading before the course start:

Brink, Stefan & Price, Neil (red.)(2008). *The Viking World*. Abingdon: Routledge

Carver, Martin., Gaydarska, Bisserka & Monton-Subias, Sandra (2015). *Field Archaeology from Around the World: Ideas and Approaches*.

Graham-Campbell, James & Williams, Gareth (red.) (2007). *Silver Economy in the Viking Age*. Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press.

Hodder, Ian (red.) (2001). *Archaeological theory Today*. Cambridge: Polity

Price, Neil S. (2002). *The Viking way: religion and war in late Iron Age Scandinavia*. Diss. Uppsala: Univ., 2002

Widerström, Per & Petersson, Ann-Marie (2009). *The Spilling's Hoard: Gotland's Role in Viking Age World Trade*. Visby: Gotlands museum: Fornsalens Förlag