

**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, E. 2003, *Tools for Textile Production – from Birka and Hedeby*. Stockholm, Birka Studies 8.

Andersson Strand, E. and Nosch, M-L. (eds), 2015, *Tools, Textiles and Contexts. Investigating Textile Production in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean Bronze Age*. Ancient Textiles Series, Oxbow Books, Oxford. Peer reviewed.

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

Barber, E. J. W. (1991), *Prehistoric Textiles. The Development of Cloth in the Neolithic and Bronze Ages with Special Reference to the Aegean*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Bender Jørgensen, L. 1986. *Forhistoriske Textilier i Skandinavien*. Copenhagen: Det kongelige Nordiske Oldskriftsselskab (Nordiske Fortidsminder Ser B 9).

Bender Jørgensen, L. (1992), *North European Textiles until AD 1000*. Aarhus. Aarhus University Press.

Gleba, M and Mannering, U. (eds), 2012, *Textiles and Textile Production in Europe from Prehistory to AD 400*, Ancient Textiles Series 11, Oxford.

Nosch Marie-Louise and Gillis Carole (eds), *First Aid for the Excavation of Archaeological Textiles*, Ancient Textiles Series 2, Oxford.

Hald, M., 1980. Ancient Danish textiles from bogs and burials, a comparative study of costumes and Iron Age textiles. Copenhagen.

Nosch, Marie-Louise, Mårtensson, Linda and Andersson Strand, Eva 2009. "Shape of Things: Understanding a Loom Weight", Oxford Journal of Archaeology 28.4, 373-398. Page 2 of 5

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

### Remarks

This course is suitable for 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

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### Sign up

Self Service at KUnet

[Application for individual elective study](#)

Send to Hanne Busch: [busch@hum.ku.dk](mailto: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