Department of Culture and Aesthetics

Stockholm University

# Syllabus

for course at advanced level

**Technical Art History I**
**Teknisk konstvetenskap I**

**15.0 Higher Education Credits**
**15.0 ECTS credits**

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|---|---|
| **Course code:** | KV6005 |
| **Valid from:** | Autumn 2017 |
| **Date of approval:** | 2017-03-22 |
| **Department** | Department of Culture and Aesthetics |
| **Main field:** | Art History |
| **Specialisation:** | A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements |

## Decision

This syllabus was developed by the Faculty Board of Humanities on 2017-03-08 and adopted by the Board of the Department of Culture and Aesthetics on 2017-03-22.

## Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Admission to the course requires that the student has been admitted to the International Master's Programme in Art History: Technical Art History and the Art Museum.

## Course structure

| Examination code | Name | Higher Education Credits |
|---|---|---|
| 1100 | Technical Art History I | 15 |

## Course content

The course provides basic knowledge and skills relating to inorganic and organic chemistry, as well as chemical-organic compounds, changes and destruction in art objects that were made using painting techniques and other inorganic and organic materials. The course provides skills in multispectral methods of analysis and their applications in the study of older art objects. In addition, the course discusses various artistic techniques that use inorganic and organic material, as well as the history of conservation science, contemporary conditions and current standards within museum institutions. The course discusses historical primary source texts concerning artistic techniques and their applications for understanding the material history of an art object. The course is provided in collaboration with the Department of Materials and Environmental Chemistry, and some of the teaching will take place in a laboratory at Stockholm University and the conservation room of a museum institution.

## Learning outcomes

In order to pass the course, students are expected to:
- be familiar with basic theory of chemical reactions and chemical bonding;
- have a basic understanding of the structure of the periodic table;
- be able to identify basic chemical differences between important material groups, such as polymers, metals and ceramic materials;
- be able to explain the differences between various important pigment materials;
- be familiar with basic theory of scanning electron microscopy (SEM);
- be familiar with basic theory of powder x-ray diffraction;
- be familiar with basic theory of spectroscopic analysis methods;

- be able to identify and analyse chemical-organic compounds, changes and destruction in art objects that were made using painting techniques;
- be able to identify, analyse and interpret chemical-organic compounds, changes and destruction in art objects made out of inorganic and organic materials;
- be able to identify and critically analyse artistic techniques using inorganic and organic materials;
- be able to identify, reflect on and critically analyse the history of conservation science, contemporary conditions and current standards within art museums;
- be able to identify, reflect on and critically analyse historical primary source texts concerning artistic techniques.

**Education**

Instruction is given in the form of lectures, seminars and laboratory work. Attendance is mandatory. The language of instruction is English.

**Forms of examination**

a) The course is examined on the basis of a take-home examination and a written paper connected to laboratory work.

b) Grades will be set according to a seven-point scale related to the learning objectives of the course:

A = Excellent
B = Very good
C = Good
D = Satisfactory
E = Adequate
Fx = Inadequate
F = Totally Inadequate

Some examination tasks in the course may be assessed using the grades Pass or Fail (G/U).

c) Students will be informed of the written grading criteria when the course starts.

d) In order to pass the course, students must receive a grade of E or higher on all examination tasks, complete all mandatory assignments and meet the attendance requirements. Under special circumstances, the examiner may, after consulting with the coordinating teacher, grant the student an exemption from the obligation to participate in certain mandatory course elements or complete mandatory assignments. The student can then be assigned a compensatory assignment.

e) At least two examination opportunities should be offered during each course and semester. In addition, at least one opportunity to retake an examination should be given during a semester or year when the course is not provided. Students who receive the grade E or higher on an examination may not retake the examination to attain a higher grade. Students who receive the grade Fx or F twice by the same examiner are entitled to have another examiner appointed to grade the next examination, unless there are special reasons to the contrary. Such requests should be made to the department board.

**Interim**

If this course is discontinued, or its contents substantially altered, students have the right to be examined according to this syllabus once per semester for three further semesters.

**Required reading**

For up-to-date information about the required reading, please refer to the department website: www.su.se/ike. The current reading list will be made available at least two months before the course starts.