

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE SUDAN

Guarantor: Mgr. Lenka Varadzinová, Ph.D.

Lecturer: Mgr. Lenka Varadzinová, Ph.D.

Summer semester 2024/2025, Fridays 12:30–14:05, room C507

Language: English

Type of attestation: exam (Zk)

Prerequisites for attendance: none, but background in archaeology or history is of benefit

Requirements for attestation: short presentation of selected reading (1 article), written test in the extent of the elementary reading (see below)

Course annotation

The course provides an insight into the archaeology and material culture of the Sudan. The geographical scope of the lectures goes beyond the territory of Lower and Upper Nubia, traditionally connected with the archaeology and history of Egypt, and covers vast territory of the Middle and Upper Nile and regions extending to the east and west of the Nile Valley. The course will begin with two introductory lectures on geographical and ecological characteristics of the whole region, overview of history of research and main milestones in archaeology of the Sudan, related with changes of paradigms in archaeological theory and practice and with changing political, social, and economic society of the country, and presentation of primary sources and essential topics of Sudanese archaeology. These will be subsequently developed in more detail in specialised lectures devoted to the developments and transformations of modes of settlement, burial, and material culture in individual parts of the Sudan from the terminal Pleistocene and early Holocene to the period of the Funj sultanate with an extension to the present.

Course programme

- Introduction I, II: geographical and ecological context, history and milestones of research, primary sources and major themes of Sudanese archaeology
- Archaeology of Sudanese hunter-gatherers (terminal Pleistocene and early Holocene)
- Archaeology of the first food-producers in the Sudan
- Archaeology of rock art (Northeast Africa)
- Archaeology of the Sudanese Bronze Age I, II (C-Group, Kerma, Pan Grave Culture, Gash Group, Wadi Howar – Leiterband)
- Archaeology of the Egyptian presence in the Sudan (3rd and 2nd millennia BC)
- Archaeology of the great Sudanese kingdoms I, II (Napata, Meroe)
- Archaeology of the post-Meroitic transitions and Christian kingdoms
- “Islamic archaeology” in the Sudan
- Sudanese archaeology in African context

Elementary study literature and tools:

Adams, W. Y. 1977. *Nubia: Corridor to Africa*. London.

Bonnet, Ch. *et al.* 2019. *The Black Kingdom on the Nile*. Harvard University Press.

Edwards, D. N. 2004. *The Nubian Past: An Archaeology of the Sudan*. London – New York.

Elzein, I. S. 2004. *Islamic Archaeology in the Sudan*. Oxford.

Emberling, G. – Williams, B. B. (eds.) 2021. *The Oxford Handbook of Ancient Nubia*. New York.

Garcea, E. A. A. 2020. *The Prehistory of the Sudan*. Springer.

Kendall, T. 1996. *Kerma and the Kingdom of Kush (2500–1500 B.C.)*. Washington.

Onderka, P., Vrtal, V. *et al.* 2014. *Núbie. Země na křižovatce kultur / Nubia. A Land on the Crossroads of Cultures. Wad Ben Naga 2014*. Praha.

Raue, D. (ed.) 2019. *Handbook of Ancient Nubia*, 2 vols. De Gruyter.

Welsby, D. A. 1996. *The Kingdom of Kush. The Napatan and Meroitic Empires*. Princeton.

Welsby, D. A. – Anderson, J. R. (eds.) 2004. *Sudan: Ancient Treasures*. London.

Specialised literature on individual themes and periods of archaeology of the Sudan will be provided at individual lectures of the course.