Heritage Resources Management (HERM) 501

Issues in Heritage Resources Management (Revision 4)

Status:	Replaced with new revision, see the **course listing** ⏶ for the current revision ✖
Delivery mode:	**Grouped study** ⏶
Credits:	3
Area of study:	Arts
Prerequisites:	None
Precluded:	HERM 301. (HERM 501 may not be taken for credit by students who have obtained credit for **HERM 301**. Also, students who complete HERM 501 will not be eligible to register in HERM 301).
Faculty:	**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences** ⏶

Notes:	HERM 501 is offered in the January semester.

Overview

HERM 501 invites students to discuss and debate formative issues in Heritage Resources Management from a number of perspectives and in terms of the major areas of heritage practice in museums, historic places, archives, and other heritage institutions and agencies. Heritage Resources Management is a process that involves

- identifying the various elements of the past that a society defines as its heritage.

- determining why and how these associated resources are significant.

- determining what is entailed in conserving, and using those resources in a manner that respects them as a public trust.

Since the 1960s, there has been massive growth in Heritage Resources Management activity in most parts of the world. Museums and historic sites of many sorts have appeared, and greater effort than ever before is spent conserving, documenting, and interpreting historical and artistic artefacts, cultural landscapes, historic buildings, and historic districts in towns and cities.

Such growth has raised important questions about heritage activities. What does this growth reveal about Canada's concerns as a society and about the forces that are shaping Canada's culture? What practical demands do these concerns pose? What characterizes contemporary practice in collecting, exhibiting, and public programming? What challenges face the heritage sector in its public trust and public service responsibilities?

These questions concern everyone in the heritage sector because all aspects of heritage work are increasingly converging. Several decades ago, people working in museums, historic sites, archives, and on the conservation of historic buildings and districts saw themselves as working in separate fields

and drawing on different traditions and motivations. For many this is still true, but there has been a remarkable melding of the issues that all heritage workers face and in their responses to the particular needs of their fields. For example, they increasingly define public purpose and audience needs in much the same way; they follow many of the same practices when displaying, exhibiting, and conserving artefacts and historic places; and they design public educational programs using many of the same principles and methodologies. In other words, heritage has developed a community of practice.

Outline

HERM 501: Issues in Heritage Resources Management consists of ten units:

- Unit 1: Heritage Resources Management
- Unit 2: Types of Practice: Museums and Archives
- Unit 3: Types of Practice: Historic Places Management
- Unit 4: Structuring Practice: Governance and Ethics
- Unit 5: Justifying Heritage through Tourism
- Unit 6: Who Controls the Past?
- Unit 7: What to Keep and Why: Determining Heritage Significance
- Unit 8: Conservation?
- Unit 9: Approaches to Heritage Education
- Unit 10: Interpretive Programming

Learning outcomes

HERM 501 has five major learning outcomes. After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the types of practice that characterize the heritage field.
2. Discuss the ways that social context shapes activities in the heritage field.
3. Analyze current and emerging issues.

4. Analyze and explain social controversies, ethical questions, and approaches to practice that characterize the contemporary heritage field.

5. Assess methodologies and approaches to heritage policy, collecting, conservation, research, exhibiting, interpretation, and planning.

Evaluation

To receive credit for HERM 501, you must complete and submit all of the assignments. You must achieve a minimum grade of **C– (60 percent)** ⬀ for the course.

You will be evaluated on your understanding of the concepts presented in the course and on your ability to apply those concepts. Your final grade in the course will be based on the marks achieved for the following activities.

Activity	Weight
Experiential Journal (ongoing)	15%
Online Participation (ongoing)	20%
Moderate Online Discussion Forum	10%
Critical Review of an Online Exhibition	20%
Term Paper	35%
Total	**100%**

Materials

The Standard Practices Handbook for Museums, 3rd ed. Edmonton: Alberta Museums Association, 2014.* 📖 (Print)

In Time and Place. Master Plan 2005. Edmonton: Alberta Community

Development, 2005. 📄 (PDF)

The Standard Practices Handbook will be used in other courses in the Heritage Resources Management Program. *You must keep your copy of this book* if you intend to take other courses in the program.

Athabasca University Materials

All other course materials are available online through the course home page and the Digital Reading Room.

Students are encouraged to browse the **Athabasca University Library** ⎋ website to review the Library's collection of journal databases, electronic journals, and digital reference tools.

Important links

- > **Academic advising** ⎋
- > **Program planning** ⎋
- > **Request assistance** ⎋
- > **Support services** ⎋

Opened in Revision 4, January 5, 2023

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View **previous revision** 🗎