





# Heritage Resources Management (HERM) 561

## Advanced Issues in Interpretive Programming (Revision 3)

**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 361.** (HERM 561 may not be taken for credit by students who have obtained credit for HERM 361. Also, students who complete HERM 561 will not be eligible to register in HERM 361).

**Faculty:** [Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#) 

## Overview

HERM 561 explores interpretive planning as a specialized process that affects most aspects of museum and heritage operations, especially exhibitions and other public programming. In this course, a range of technologies and techniques are studied, including First- and Third-person Interpretation, the use of New Media, text writing for exhibitions and other applications, and Visitor Studies. All of these activities are grounded in theories about how people learn. This course introduces these foundational and applied issues in interpretive programming through a range of readings and assignments that deal with the purpose of museum interpretation, its central concepts and terminology, and the significant issues and debates in the field.

## Outline

HERM 561 is made up of ten units:

- Unit 1: Introduction to Museum Interpretation
- Unit 2: Informal and Formal Learning Strategies: From Individual Visits to School Tours
- Unit 3: Interpretation in Museum Exhibitions
- Unit 4: Different Forms of Exhibition
- Unit 5: Interpretation Using Print
- Unit 6: Interpretation Using New Media
- Unit 7: Bringing History Alive: First- and Third-Person Interpretation
- Unit 8: Visitor Studies
- Unit 9: Community Partnerships and Interpretation
- Unit 10: Issues in Indigenous Interpretation

## Learning outcomes

*HERM 561: Advanced Issues in Interpretive Programming* introduces students to some of the basic issues and practices in heritage interpretation. After completing the course, you should be able to:

- Explain the main types of interpretation programming used in museums and historic sites.
- Discuss how interpretive programming contributes to the “visitor experience.”
- Identify and describe current and emerging issues.
- Discuss the social controversies, ethical questions, and methodologies of practice that characterize the current field of interpretive programming.
- Identify and describe methods and approaches to interpretive programming and how they relate and form part of related activities such as exhibition planning, school programming, and public programming in general.
- Identify and describe the objectives and methods used in evaluating visitor needs.
- Demonstrate increased awareness of the complex issues in Indigenous heritage interpretation.

## Evaluation





To receive credit in HERM 561, you must complete all assignments and achieve a course composite grade of at least C (60 percent).

Activity	Weight
Assignment 1: Participation in Online Discussions	20%
Assignment 2: Moderation of One Online Discussion	10%
Assignment 3: Writing Interpretive Text	35%
Assignment 4: Interpretive Planning Framework	35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Materials

All course materials are available online.

## Important links

- › [Academic advising](#) 
- › [Program planning](#) 
- › [Request assistance](#) 
- › [Support services](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

*Opened in Revision 3, October 12, 2021*

*Updated September 12, 2024*

View [previous revision](#) 

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