Heritage Resources Management (HERM) 361

Interpretive Programming (Revision 3)

Status:	Replaced with new revision, see the **course listing** ☒ for the current revision ⊗
Delivery mode:	**Individualized study online** ☒
Credits:	3
Areas of study:	Arts or Humanities
Prerequisite:	None
Precluded:	HERM 561. (HERM 361 may not be taken for credit by students who have obtained credit for **HERM 561**. Also, students who complete HERM 361 will not be eligible to register in HERM 561).
Challenge:	HERM 361 is not available for challenge.
Faculty:	**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences** ☒

Overview

HERM 361 explores interpretive programming 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, as well as the significant issues and debates in the field.

Outline

HERM 361 is made up of ten units:

- Unit 1: Introduction to Museum Interpretation

- Unit 2: Informal and Formal Learning Strategies

- 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: School Programs in Museums

Learning outcomes

HERM 361: 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

Evaluation

To **receive credit** ☐ in HERM 361, you must complete all assignments and achieve a course composite grade of at least **D (50 percent)** ⬙ .

Activity	Weight
Assignment 1: Summary Report on Readings	15%
Assignment 2: Critical Review of an Exhibition	25%
Assignment 3: Research Essay	25%
Assignment 4: Interpretation Policy Framework	35%
Total	**100%**

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's **online Calendar** ☐ .

Materials

This course either does not have a course package or the textbooks are open-source material and available to students at no cost. This course has a **Course Administration and Technology Fee** ☑ , but students are not charged the Course Materials Fee.

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, April 4, 2023

Updated October 31, 2024

View **previous revision** 🗎