





# Heritage Resources Management (HERM) 671

## Documentation and Condition Assessment (Revision 2)

**Status:**

Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

**Delivery mode:**

Grouped study 

**Credits:**

3

**Area of study:**

Arts

**Prerequisite:**

None

**Precluded:**

None

**Faculty:**

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences 

## Overview

In this course, students are given the opportunity to explore new ways of observing and thinking about the built environment through application of documentation methods.

Recording the physical characteristics of historic structures and landscapes is a cornerstone of monitoring, preventive maintenance, and conservation. The information produced by such documentation guides decision making by property owners, site managers, public officials, and conservators. Rigorous documentation may also serve a broader purpose: over time, it becomes the primary means by which scholars and the public can apprehend a site that has changed radically or disappeared.

The growth of the field of conservation has brought with it vast quantities of heritage information collected using a variety of techniques, from long-established practices such as photography and hand sketching, to emerging technologies including building information modelling (BIM) and digital fabrication. Thorough documentation plays a vital role in defining a heritage place's significance, integrity, extent, and threats, and is crucial to understanding, protection, and management. It is essential that heritage professionals understand the various recording techniques that are available to them, as well as their applications

## Outline

*HERM 671: Documentation and Condition Assessment* consists of twelve units of online grouped study:

- Unit 1: Recording Historic Places for Conservation
- Unit 2: Statements of Significance in Canada
- Unit 3: Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Digital Inventories
- Unit 4: Creating a Site Photographic Portfolio
- Unit 5: Introduction to Field Notes
- Unit 6: Recording a Floor Plan Using a Total Station
- Unit 7: Making a Cross Section Using Rectified Photography
- Unit 8: Photogrammetry
- Unit 9: 3D Scanning
- Unit 10: Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS)

- Unit 11: Historic Building Pathology
- Unit 12: Emerging Technologies
- Final Synchronous Meeting

## Objectives

Once students have completed this course, they should be able to

- understand the role of visual information gathering in historic conservation, and be able to follow relevant national and international standards.
- outline the strengths and limitations of particular recording techniques.
- understand recording techniques both as creators of documentation and as informed users.
- analyze historic sites using the recording techniques taught in this course.
- understand the relationship between recording and good conservation decision making.
- integrate information gathered through the recording techniques taught in this course into coherent presentations.
- apply an interdisciplinary approach to their Presentation of Final Project and Preliminary Integrated Project Dossier, and their final Integrated Project Dossier, ultimately completing a graphic and historical record of a historic site.

## Evaluation

To receive credit for this course, students must successfully complete the following activities and assignments, and they *must* participate in a synchronous meeting at the end of the course. They must achieve a minimum course composite grade of 60%.





Activity	Weight
Discussion Participation	10%
Moderation of Unit Discussion	10%

Activity	Weight
Assignment 1: Understanding the Historic Place	10%
Assignment 2: Making a Preliminary Site Inventory	10%
Assignment 3: Preparing a Site Photographic Portfolio	10%
Assignment 4: Hand Recording and Site Field Notes	10%
Assignment 5: Presentation of Final Project and Preliminary Integrated Project Dossier (Synchronous Meeting)	10%
Assignment 6: Integrated Project Dossier	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Materials

All materials for the course are online, including an extensive study guide and assigned readings.

## 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 2, March 1, 2021*

*Updated April 25, 2025*

View **previous revision** [!\[\]\(74d4806277d7e73349d8e8c0897931e9\_img.jpg\)](#)

---