



History (HIST) 316

Heritage Research (Revision 2)

Delivery mode: [Individualized study online](#)

Credits: 3

Areas of study: Arts or Humanities

Prerequisites: None

Precluded: HIST 316 is a cross-listed course—a course listed under two different disciplines—with HERM 312. (HIST 316 may not be taken for credit by students who have obtained credit for HERM 312.) Also, students who complete HERM 312/HIST 316 will not be eligible to register in HERM 512.

Challenge: HIST 316 is not available for challenge.

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

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

Overview

HIST 316 is based on the premise that the principles of historical thinking and analysis are fundamental to heritage practice. The course focuses on the practice, skills, and understandings of applied historical research. Heritage research provides balanced and accurate information for the identification, collection, documentation, evaluation, conservation, and interpretation of a broad range of heritage resources, both tangible and intangible.

HIST 316 introduces multiple sources of evidence ranging from documentary—comprising textual and visual sources—to oral interviews, artifacts, archaeological resources, buildings, and cultural landscapes. The course includes extensive web-based readings and introduces the use of online search tools and digital resource collections in libraries, archives, and museums. Attention is given to interpreting primary documents and the ability to identify bias and intent, the nature and value of pictorial records, and their use in heritage research.

Students will study the methodology and sources of material culture research in support of collection management and the development of exhibits, furnishing plans, and interpretive programming. Issues and considerations underlying the practical steps of oral history interviewing will also be introduced, as well as the use of maps and Historical Geographic Information Systems (HGIS) as a documentary source and research tool for the study of historic landscapes.

This course offers an experiential understanding of planning and undertaking research for those working in any area of heritage resources management, from curators, archivists, interpreters, and programmers to restoration specialists and managers.

Outline

HIST 316 is divided into ten units and requires you to do a number of readings and assignments.

- Unit 1: The Big Picture: Perspectives on Heritage Research and the Public
- Unit 2: Planning Heritage Research & Finding and Accessing Documentary Sources
- Unit 3: Documentary Sources: Evaluating and Interpreting Primary Text Records and Secondary Published Sources
- Unit 4: Documentary Sources: Examining Pictorial Records
- Unit 5: Oral History: Research Method and Documentary Source
- Unit 6: Material Culture: Artifact-Based Research and Source of Evidence
- Unit 7: Material Culture: Archaeological Resources and Heritage Research
- Unit 8: Architectural Heritage Resources: Documenting, Researching, and Interpreting Buildings
- Unit 9: The Resources of Place: Researching and Interpreting Landscapes
- Unit 10: Putting It All Together: A Case Study in Heritage Research

Learning outcomes

HIST 316: Heritage Research introduces students to some of the formative issues and practices in heritage research. After completing the course, students will be able to:

- Explain the importance of research in the multidisciplinary field of Heritage Resources Management.
- Identify and use a wide range of documentary (both digital and non-digital) and non-documentary sources for various heritage research needs.
- Describe the problems, advantages, and issues that arise when using various types of sources of evidence including documentary research, oral history, and material culture.

- Plan and undertake basic historical research on a given topic, using a variety of source types, and present your findings in an appropriate format.

Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) in HIST 316, you must complete and submit all four assignments and achieve an overall grade of **D (50 percent)** [📄](#).

Activity	Weight
Assignment 1: Analyzing Visual Images	20%
Assignment 2: Learning to Listen	20%
Assignment 3: Researching Heritage Buildings	20%
Assignment 4: Research Plan	40%
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 for HIST 316 are available online from the course home page. These materials include a Course Information and a Study Guide. All of the required readings for the course are available in the Digital Reading Room.

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.

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View **previous revision** 
