

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith  
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## **General Syllabus**

### **HISP 3903 Methods of Heritage Site Interpretation**

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite(s): HISP 3503 Basic Skills in Interpretation

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

#### **I. Course Information**

##### **A. Catalog Description**

An overview of the challenges, methods, and unique aspects of interpreting historic sites. Incorporates practical methods to help the public make connections and understand meanings of historical sites.

##### **B. Additional Information**

The course content is essential to potential interpreters by helping them to gain practical methods to help the public make connections and understand meanings of historical sites. Future interpreters must understand the unique nature of historic places, the overlapping areas of memory, commemoration and history, as well as the role of preservation, conservation, and restoration. Living history, reenactment, demonstration, first and third person interpretation are covered in the course. An overview of preservation law and the National Register of Historic Places complete the content necessary for students to effectively interpret historic sites.

#### **II. Student Learning Outcomes**

##### **A. Subject Matter**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Differentiate between the aspects of historic site interpretation as opposed to interpretation at memorials, monuments and natural resources.
2. Describe the methodologies used in historic interpretation.
3. Describe the purposes of historic interpretation.
4. Examine and analyze a wide body of writing pertaining to historic interpretation.

5. Conduct a guided tour of a historic site.
6. Evaluate examples of historic site interpretation on local, state and national levels.
7. Identify and discuss sensitive issues in historic site interpretation.
8. Develop and articulate strategies to handle sensitive issues in historic site interpretation.

## **B. University Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

### **Analytical Skills**

#### **Critical Thinking**

Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis.

Students will synthesize material from various sources to complete projects.

### **Communication Skills (written and oral)**

Students will create several different presentations on different topics. These presentations will be designed for general audiences of different ages in a public setting.

### **Ethical Decision Making**

Students will create original presentations and exhibits based on original research. These exhibits and presentations must be accurate, informative, and entertaining and uphold the highest ethical standards.

### **Global & Cultural Perspectives**

Students will create presentations that embrace multicultural aspects of historical events. Students will also learn techniques for conducting effective presentations for diverse audiences.

## **III. Major Course Topics**

- A. Unique aspects of historic site interpretation
- B. Documentary, representative, and aesthetic historic sites
- C. Definition of Historical Interpretation
- D. Methods and tools of Historical Interpretation
- E. Interpretive methods at historic sites
- F. Ethnicity, violence, religion and other sensitive issues
- G. Planning historic site interpretation
- H. Presenting the historic site to the public
- I. Special events
- J. Accumulating and evaluating sources for historic site interpretation
- K. Updating and revising historic site interpretation
- L. Preservation law and the National Register of Historic Places