

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith**  
**5210 Grand Avenue**  
**P. O. Box 3649**  
**Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649**  
**479-788-7000**

## **General Syllabus**

### **HISP 3913 Methods of Natural Resources 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 natural resources sites. Incorporates practical methods to help the public make connections and understand science and the natural world.

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

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

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

1. Interpret natural resource sites from historic and scientific perspectives.
2. Employ the methodologies of natural resource interpretation.
3. Explain the purposes of natural resource interpretation.
4. Analyze and utilize a wide body of writing pertaining to natural resource interpretation.
5. Conduct a guided tour of a natural resource site.
6. Compare and contrast natural resource site interpretation efforts on local, state and national levels.
7. Develop and articulate strategies to handle sensitive issues in natural site interpretation.
8. Explain the designation process for setting aside natural phenomena as protected sites at local, state, and national levels.

##### **B. University Learning Outcomes**

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

**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.

**Analytical Skills****Critical Thinking**

Students will synthesize material from various sources to complete projects.

**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 and 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 natural resource site interpretation
- B. Designation of natural phenomena as preservations
- C. Definition of Natural Resource Interpretation
- D. Methods and tools of Natural Resource Interpretation
- E. Interpretive methods at natural resource sites
- F. Scientifically, historically, and ethically sensitive issues
- G. Planning natural resource site interpretation
- H. Presenting the site to the public
- I. Accumulating and evaluating sources for natural resource site interpretation
- J. Updating and revising site interpretation
- K. Environmental and conservation/preservation law and the Parks Service