

HERITAGE STUDIES (MINOR)

Program Description

Until recently, the expert-driven origins of the 'heritage industry' have shaped global approaches to heritage management, practice, and studies. However, in recent years the heritage industry has shifted from a largely conservationist focus of preserving remains that are deemed valuable to a more globalized and multidisciplinary field at the heart of many cultural, social, political, environmental, and economic processes. New paradigms recognize the challenges of applying universalism to heritage processes that are often highly localized and nuanced.

The multidisciplinary minor in Heritage Studies introduces students to the theory and practices of the disciplines associated with heritage from local and global perspectives through research-based learning. It allows for the exploration of the past in the present through the interpretation of material culture and memory with a special focus on community-based research. The program offers courses that are related to heritage production, consumption and uses, identity politics, cultural contestation on one side, and scientific methods of investigation and data interpretation for the recovery and conservation of cultural heritage on the other. Heritage Studies thus combines courses from various divisions at NYUAD reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of the field.

Focus Areas

This multidisciplinary minor and its learning outcomes are structured around two areas:

Heritage Theory

Heritage Theory focuses on the uses of heritage as a political, economic and social agent. By studying the complexities of sites, commemorative practices and heritage production in public arenas, the theme aims to identify the various functions of heritage in contemporary society that allow either for the creation of interconnection or division among societies. Complex systems that illustrate the uses of heritage will be studied through an integrated approach, which will not separate cultural from ecological sustainability. The theme includes broader and more holistic concepts of heritage such as cultural landscapes, which combine the physical, cognitive and cultural reality of heritage.

Heritage Management and Research Methods

The conservation and analysis of heritage sites, (art) objects and their narratives is central in heritage management, interpretation and legal frameworks. Courses in this theme will center on the diverse research methodologies applied in heritage studies and management. Specific focus will include the material sciences and imaging. This theme will also introduce advanced technologies used in the location and recording of heritage sites. Furthermore, this theme will include courses that are related to the Digital Humanities, including digitization of heritage as well as innovative ways of mapping, documenting and interpreting heritage.

Program Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
Minor Required Courses		
Complete 1	Foundational course (see list below)	4
Complete 1	Heritage Theory course (see list below)	4
Complete 1	Heritage Management and Research Methods course (see list below)	4

Minor Elective

Complete 1 additional course from any of the categories above	4
Total Credits	16

Foundational Courses

Code	Title	Credits
HERST-UH 1100	World Heritage Sites & Universal Collections	4
HERST-UH 1101X	Heritage Management in the Arabian World	4
HERST-UH 1502	Judging Heritage: Cultural Property Law and Preservation Policies	4

Heritage Theory Courses

Code	Title	Credits
ARTH-UH 1121X	Gulf and Indian Ocean World Art and Architecture	4
ARTH-UH 2123	Museums, Art and Society	4
ARTH-UH 2131	Silk Roads, Sea Routes and Shared Heritage	4
AW-UH 1115X	Political Past, Political Presents: Archaeology and the Politics of Memory in the 'Near East'	4
AW-UH 1119X	Sacred Cities: Jerusalem and Mecca	4
CCEA-UH 1004	Identity and Object	4
CCEA-UH 1061	Memory	4
CCEA-UH 1069	Cultural Appropriation	4
CCEA-UH 1083	Cultural History of Falconry	4
CCEA-UH 1096	Global Scents: All the Perfumes of Arabia	4
CSTS-UH 1088	Thinking Big About the Ancient World	4
HERST-UH 1100	World Heritage Sites & Universal Collections	4
HERST-UH 1101X	Heritage Management in the Arabian World	4
HIST-UH 2116	Empires and Museums: A History of Knowledge Production and Museum-making	4
MUSIC-UH 1005	Anthropology of Music 1	4
MUSIC-UH 1611X	Arab Music Cultures	4
MUSIC-UH 1618X	Music and Identity in Trade	4
SRPP-UH 2612X	State Formation: The Case of the United Arab Emirates	4

Heritage Management and Research Methods Courses

Code	Title	Credits
ARTH-UH 2131	Silk Roads, Sea Routes and Shared Heritage	4
AW-UH 1114	Doing Archeology: Case Studies from Western Asia	4
AW-UH 1120X	Archaeology of the Gulf	4
CADT-UH 1001	Manus et Machina	4
CDAD-UH 1033EQ	Data and Human Space	4
HERST-UH 1100	World Heritage Sites & Universal Collections	4
HERST-UH 1101X	Heritage Management in the Arabian World	4
HERST-UH 1501	Experimenting with the Past: Cultural Heritage Connections in the Gulf and Western Indian Ocean	4
HERST-UH 1502	Judging Heritage: Cultural Property Law and Preservation Policies	4
MUSIC-UH 1004	Music: Histories and Historiography 1	4
SRPP-UH 2211	Ethnographic Field Research	4

Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete the Multidisciplinary Minor in Heritage Studies will be able to:

1. Identify key issues, concepts, and theories of heritage and demonstrate their understanding of these elements.
2. Understand the discourses around both Authorized Heritage and Critical Heritage Studies.
3. Develop knowledge of memory and identity studies in relationship to tangible and intangible heritage.
4. Apply their knowledge to identify heritage sites, objects and narratives.
5. Utilize current methods and thinking to address heritage-related challenges.
6. Use key skills to develop conservation management strategies (including the use of mapping, materials conservation, imaging and high-tech).
7. Create project goal statements and formulate corresponding plans.
8. Design and conduct community-based heritage research.
9. Clearly present and articulate complex ideas and information visually, verbally, and in writing.

Policies

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

NYU Abu Dhabi Policies

A full list of relevant policies can be found on NYU Abu Dhabi's undergraduate academic policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/abu-dhabi/academic-policies/>).