This workshop, offered in partnership with the University of Oregon’s Collaborative for Inclusive Urbanism (CIU), offers students the opportunity to explore new ways to preserve, interpret, and design for the cultural heritage of minority communities in the U.S. using the historically African-American community of Albina in Northeast Portland as an example. Students will serve as members of the Albina African American Cultural Heritage Conservation Project research team to investigate specific questions of their choosing and to contribute towards a “framework” document that outlines new directions for preservation activities involving minority populations.

Participants will work with community members and experts in cultural and architectural preservation to develop tools that can help improve the design of minority neighborhoods and conserve important sites and objects of minority culture. The workshop will make use of existing research efforts by the Architectural Heritage Center, National Trust, Vanport Mosaic, and Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church to explore how preservationists might help interpret both lost histories of minority communities and enhance the future of those that remain in them.

Students will work on research and design projects individually, in small groups, and as a class. There are no pre-requisites for this course, which serves as an elective for both the MS Degree in Historic Preservation and the Specialization in Historic Preservation for the MArch Degree.