The field of historic preservation is not only defined by landmark buildings and archaeological sites—preservation advocates, professionals, and decision-makers are expected to approach complex issues with nuanced understandings of the past, present, and future. This course will review the foundations of ethics, evaluate case studies, and develop frameworks under which students can make informed decisions in their professional capacities into the future.

Course themes will explore property rights, the benefits and burdens of historic preservation, and the complexity of determining how—and if—different policies advance the public interest. Guest speakers and course materials will provide an understanding of ways in which public engagement, inclusion, and equity can be integrated into the identification, designation, and protection of historic resources.

Course requirements include both written deliverables and verbal presentations.