

# **Geography of Tourism**

## **GEOG 454/554**

### **Fall Semester, 2011**

#### **Monday, 6:00-8:30 pm, Gunter Hall 204**

#### **Course Description:**

A review of the geographical distribution of tourism, travel patterns, and tourism impacts on natural environments and local populations. Prerequisite: Completion of six credits of geography courses or senior standing.

#### **Institutional Learning Goals in this Course:**

1. Liberal Knowledge and Skills of Inquiry, Critical Thinking, and Synthesis: In this course, students will utilize empirical data, conduct their own analysis, and prepare written synthesis as appropriate. In addition, global issues such as the impact of tourism on destination areas, transit regions, and origin areas is evaluated.
2. Core Skills: While mastering the content oriented objectives below, students will also find improvement in their written, oral, and cartographic communication skills. Students will also examine statistical tables and be asked to draw conclusions from them. Problem solving skills will be addressed through evaluation of government policies, and in examining theoretical work of selected geographers. Students will construct maps and charts.
3. Acquisition and Application of Specialized Knowledge: Selected concepts introduced in this course provide foundation knowledge for students completing the optional specialization in tourism studies for the major in urban and regional planning.
4. Values and Social Responsibility: Students will be frequently confronted with the alternative value systems of other world cultures. Implications for decision making within and between cultures will be developed.
5. Appreciation of Cultural Identifies: This course serves to introduce students to world cultural diversity through the approach of contemporary geography. Tourism builds upon differences in the nature of places, cultural and natural landscape, and the interest in diverse cultural groups.

#### **Specific Course Objectives:**

The course will place emphasis on the economic, environmental and social impacts of tourism. At the conclusion of the course, all students should be able to:

1. Understand and describe spatial patterns of international and domestic tourism.
2. Determine the impact of leisure travel on communities.
3. Calculate the economic impact of tourism on geographic areas.
4. Identify tourist attractions of regional, national, and world significance.
5. Consider of comparisons and contrasts between geographic patterns of business and leisure travel.
6. Identify tourism actors and career opportunities in tourism.

#### **Instructor:**

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Office Hours: M,W,F 10-11. or T, Th 1-2 or by appointment

**Resource Materials:**

Stephen Williams, Tourism Geography: A New Synthesis, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Routledge, 2009

**Evaluation:**

Course evaluation will include three exams (two midterms and a final exam), a book review, several short assignments, and an individual project. The midterm exams will be short answer and essay exams. The Final Exam will be a comprehensive essay exam with an emphasis on tourism policy from the last unit. Students may request to do the Final Exam as a take-home exam to be turned in at the Final Exam. Graduate students will take exams at the same time as undergraduate students, but will have different essay and short answer questions.

The book review will be a review of a novel involving tourists or travel. Some suggested titles are attached, but the student may locate a suitable novel independently. Guidelines for the review are attached, and should be utilized, as the assignment is not simply to recount the plot of a novel. The book review for graduate students will follow the same guidelines and standards as for undergraduates.

There will be several short assignments during the semester. Each student will visit a local tourist site or an internet site and prepare a brief report or answer to a specific question. The specific format will depend on the assignment.

The term project will require the student to do a tourism impact study of an existing or proposed tourist attraction. Guidelines are attached. The Independent project will be of greater importance to graduate students than undergraduates. While the assignment will follow the same general goals and guidelines given to undergraduates, graduate student projects will be expected to have a higher level of professionalism. Graduate students are expected to meet with the instructor as they develop their project. All students will provide an oral project summary.

	Undergraduates	Graduates
Midterm Exam I:	100 points	100 points
Midterm Exam II:	100 points	100 points
Book Review:	20 points	10 points
Independent Project:	100 points	130 points
Short Assignments:	30 points (5 points ea)	10
Final Exam:	50 points	50 points
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>400</b>

Course grades for undergraduates will be based on the following scale:

360-400, A; 320-359, B; 268-319, C; and 228-267, D

Course grades for graduate students will be based on the following scale:

360-400, A; 320-359, C; and 270-319, C

**Policies:**

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend each class unless they are involved in conflicting university activities or ill. More than four unexplained absences will have a negative impact on course grade.

**Academic Honesty:** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. Academic dishonesty on exams or the course project will lead to course failure. Please consult the Pathfinder for a definition of dishonesty and related issues. The Department of Geography policy on plagiarism is attached.

**Class Disruption:** Disruption of class will not be tolerated. Students disrupting the classroom learning environment will be asked to leave class. Please consult the Pathfinder for a definition of class disruption, and an explanation of university policies on disruptive behavior. Students must turn off or silence cell phones and other electronic devices during class.

## Course Schedule:

Class	Topic	Assignment
Sept 12	Introduction to "The Geography of Tourism" and Field Trip	
Part I. Tourism, Tourist Behavior, and Tourism Information		
Sept 19	Introduction to Tourism Geographic Approaches to Tourism	Chapter 1
Sept 26	Development of Tourism Tourism Supply: Opportunities and Growth	Chapter 2
Oct 3	Geographic Factors in Tourism Supply Public and Private Actors in Tourism	Chapter 3
Oct 10	Summary: Tourists and Tourist Behavior Project Idea Discussion Midterm Exam I	
Part II. Geographic Areas and Tourism Impacts		
Oct 17	Economic and Environmental Impacts Costs and Benefits of Tourism	Chapter 4
Oct 24	Sustainable Tourism Development Tourism and Environmental Change	Chapter 5
Oct 31	Social-Cultural Impacts in Tourism Social Impacts on Communities	Chapter 6
Nov 7	Tourism Policy Future Trends in Tourism	Chapter 7
Nov 14	Summary: Tourism Relations: Case Studies Project status Reports Midterm Exam II	
Part III. Spatial Patterns of Tourism		
Nov 21	Coastal Tourism: Attractions of the Beach Cruise Tourism	Chapter 8
Nov 28	Urban Tourism and Recreation Tourism and Urban Development	Chapter 9
Dec 5	Rural Tourism: Seeking your Heritage Wilderness Tourism	Chapter 10
Dec 12	Ecotourism: Challenges and Opportunities Conclusions: Tourism and Identity	Chapter 11
Dec 19	Final Exam (6:00 to 8:30 pm)	