

Syllabus ENV-102

Ecotourism and Environmental Conservation

SPR 2022

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Class meets twice a week:

Lectures/Seminars: 14:10-15:25pm on Monday / 14:10-15:25pm on Thursday

Course description:

The course provides an overview of the nature tourism and ecotourism as a market, the supply and demand sides and the main characteristics of them. During the course we examine issues associated with ecotourism and how it can be managed in the context of sensitive, untouched, wilderness areas. The main elements are, broadly, a focus on the natural environment, ecological and cultural sustainability, education and interpretation, and local and regional benefits. The course places special emphasis on developing the students' skills of individual thinking, problem solving and working in groups. The course contains on site - studies and field trips to special areas within Kyrgyzstan.

Course objectives:

The main objectives of this course is to enable candidates to acquire:

Students will learn how the emerging concept of ecotourism and outdoor recreation. Specifically, this course will take an approach that natural resource managers are in control of recreation and can actively plan and manage for the individual, social, economic, and environmental benefits associated with recreation and ecotourism. The course will take a practical approach to ecotourism by revolving around issues written below for fundamental to planning:

- Definitions and concepts of ecotourism.
- Inventorying and defining the current condition and status of ecotourism areas.
- Knowledge on cultural, economic and environmental impacts of ecotourism.
- Identifying management strategies and tactics that can transform a natural area into the desired condition.
- Supply and demand.
- Defining principles of sustainable development.
- An awareness that ecotourism can be developed in urban areas
- General knowledge on ecotourism for further study, personal development and participation in local and global environmental concerns

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- An awareness of the social, economic and environmental impacts of covid-19 on ecotourism and the tourism sector in general
- protection through examples from other countries in the world and from the case of Karagachevaya Roshka park in Bishkek.

Learning outcomes:

For a passing grade the student must be able to:

- critically assess the impacts of tourism: locally, nationally and globally;
- define the concept, principles and main characteristics of ecotourism;
- give several examples of ecotouristic activities;
- define what is an ecotourist;
- distinguish ecotourism from other forms of tourism;
- make a distinction between good and bad practices in ecotourism;
- describe and analyze the ecotourism policy of the best countries in terms of ecotourism
- explain how ecotourism can contribute to the local socio-economic development and at the same time to the environmental conservation
- explain how ecotourism can be developed in urban areas

Methodology: The course is presented as a series of lectures and discussion sections. At the end of each lecture the questions are discussed and several additional topics for independent studying during the seminars will be offered to students.

Course outline:

1. Introduction
2. Types of Tourism
3. Ecotourism and Eco tourists
4. Ecotourism and Urban Sustainable Development
5. Ecotourism and Biodiversity (Fauna and Flora)
6. Ecotourism and Waste management
7. Ecotourism and territories, local population
8. Marketing Ecotourism: Meeting and Shaping expectations and demands
9. Sustainable development- Think Globally Act Locally
10. Principles of Sustainable Development
11. Dimensions of Sustainable Development (Social, Economic, Environmental)
12. Implementation of Ecotourism in Kyrgyzstan-
 - ❖ Relevant guest speakers will be invited to the course within the semester.

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Grading scheme: All grades will be awarded in accordance with the scheme given below.

Assignment Points

Mid-term test (Multiple-Choice Questions) and	20 points	
Final examination (Multiple-Choice Questions + Short Essay)	30 points	
oral presentation	10 points for oral presentation	One presentation
Project	15 points for project	
Active participation	10 points	
Class Attendance	10 points	
Homework	10 points	
Total	100	

Withdrawal of grades in case of poor attendance without reason

Minus 5 points for each failure to attend without serious justification

A 100-95	B- 76-71	D+ 47-42
A- 94-89	C+ 70-60	D 41-36
B+ 88-83	C 59-54	D- 35-30
B 82-77	C- 53-48	F < 30

Class Participation and Homework:

Class Participation:

Significant class time will be spent in discussion, active learning, in-class problem solving, occasional in-class quizzes, and student presentation. Students will be assigned grades based on their participation in these class activities as well as follow-up questions to be done after class. The greatest part of this grade by far will come from completing the active learning activities in class. If you are missing from class, you cannot make up the participation grade. If instructor marked the student absent in case that the student is late for the class, he/she is considered to be absent for the whole class, unless excused by instructor.

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You must participate in all aspects of this course to get full credit. Specifically, participation will be graded on the following criteria:

- Class attendance,
- Class conduct (e.g., arriving on time, contributing to class discussions, and no disruptive behaviour),
- Attending the class field trips,
- Completion of in-class exercises,
- Observed participation in group project.

Homework:

Students must submit all written assignments before the deadline on Ecourse. Electronic copies must be uploaded via the AUCA e-course system. Hard copies might be requested by the instructor.

APA style Format (Publication Manual of the **American Psychological Association**) will be used for our written assignments. General APA guidelines [General Format](#)

Late homework **will not** be accepted and will be given a grade of “zero”.

If you miss a class, please ask your group friends or me about it and try to complete your homework.

Classroom Rules:

These basic rules, in addition to the requirements of the AUCA rules, apply to the instructor and all students at all times in the classroom.

- No use of computers for web surfing, e-mail, or any other activities not directly related to class.
- No headphones, earphones, etc. in the classroom.
- No cell-phone calls, musical interludes, etc., during class.

Attendance:

It is AUCA's policy and **mandatory**. If unjustified absences exceed 30%, a student automatically gets an “F” and is not allowed to take the Final exam (please refer to the university's updated rules). Unless you will provide some evidence such as a letter from your doctor etc.

Documentation of reasons for absence: Any valid reasons for absence should be reported to the Instructor as soon as possible. Legitimate excuses are the following: illness, confirmed by a doctor's note next class; emergency situation in the family; participation in conferences or seminars with preliminary notification of the Instructor and submission of the relevant supporting documents.

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Research Projects:

There will be one major research assignment during the course of the term. This assignment will be carried out with a partner and will culminate in a 20 minutes' formal presentation to the class and a short written paper to be distributed at the presentation. The presentation and paper will be expected to provide a clear, effective, and convincing presentation of your ideas in addition to an accurate and effective presentation of the relevant scientific concepts. This assignment will be graded for all the usual aspects of presentation as well as for quality of research and effective communication. During the early phases of this assignment, annotated bibliographies, complete outlines, brief proposals, and rough drafts will be turned in electronically for comments and discussions. All late submissions will lose points.

Late Assignment: Most course assignments have due dates, which provide a framework that assures mastery of certain concepts before moving on to other more complex ones. Assignments with due dates will not be accepted late. If you are out of town on an assignment due date, it is your responsibility to arrange for internet access and submit the assignment electronically or to submit it before you leave. Some of the assignments allow late submission for a short period with a significant penalty.

Academy Honesty:

The highest standards of academic honesty will be expected in this class. Cheating and plagiarism in any of their forms are unacceptable. At the least, a grade of zero will be assigned to any work that is the product of cheating or plagiarism. Work that is assigned to you alone is to be accomplished by you alone.

Back-up Copies: You are responsible for maintaining back-up copies of all assignments, computer programs, etc. If an assignment should be lost or misplaced during the submission or grading process, it is your responsibility to provide a copy of that assignment upon request. Always maintain current backup copies of all of your work.

Mid-term and Final Exams:

The Midterm exams and Final exams will be composed of questions requiring short-essay answers, definitions, and multiple choices. This course is designed to provide more than just basic facts for you to memorize. It is designed to give you a conceptual understanding of the principles and practices of ecotourism. Course topics are related to each other, so it would benefit you to see and understand the connection between different topics discussed in the course. No books, papers etc. can be used during the exam.

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Recommended Literature:

1. Tourism Impacts, Planning and Management. Publication: Taylor & Francis (Second Edition)
2. Ecotourism Development – A Manual for Conservation Planners and Managers, Vol. II. The business of Ecotourism Management and Development, Ed.: Drumm.
3. Tourism and Biodiversity. Achieving Common Goals Towards Sustainability. 2010, UNWTO, Madrid.
4. Practical Guide for the Development of Biodiversity-based Tourism Products. 2010 UNWTO, Madrid.
5. Tourism and Sustainability, Development, Globalisation and New Tourism in the Third World, Martin Mowforth, Ian Munt (Third, Fourth Edition), Publisher: Taylor and Francis.

References material for reading:

1. Martha Honey. Ecotourism and Sustainable Development, Second Edition. (2013)
2. Tim Gale and Jennifer Hill – Ecotourism and Environmental Sustainability: Principles and Practice (2016)
3. Ecotourism. Stephen Wearing, John Neil (2009)
4. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/232669822 Mountain Ecotourism and Sustainable Development](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/232669822_Mountain_Ecotourism_and_Sustainable_Development)
5. <https://www.ucentralasia.org/Content/Downloads/web-UCA-MSRI-BP3-Tourism-Eng.pdf>
6. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/285632636 The application of ecotourism to urban environments](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/285632636_The_application_of_ecotourism_to_urban_environments)

Syllabus change: Instructor reserve the right to change or modify this syllabus as needed: any changes will be announced in class.