

Syllabus / ENV-102

Ecotourism and Environmental Conservation

SPR 2020

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Class meets twice a week:

Lectures/Seminars: 12:45 - 14:00 on Tuesday / 12:45 - 14:00 on Thursday

Course Overview:

After outlining the definitions and basic principles of ecotourism, we will see how, under certain conditions, ecotourism can generate income while contributing to the protection of the environment.

The knowledge acquired during the first classes will then be put into practice. Students will have the chance to participate in the reintroduction of an endangered species in Kyrgyzstan. This reintroduction will be done in Bishkek in Elm Grove Park. Indeed, the park and its forest are targeted for protection project by the French Kyrgyz Ecotourism Association (AFKE) in partnership with the American University of Central Asia (AUCA). This project was certified COP21 on the occasion of the 21st Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2015. In this context, the AFKE responded to a call for projects, which enabled the Elm Grove Forest Project in Bishkek to become a beneficiary of the PARIS2015 / COP21 label. This involved for the AFKE the signature of a charter materializing the institutional support of the COP21 Ministerial Steering Committee.

This course provides a solid understanding of ecotourism and statistics applied to the environment. In addition students will be able to apply what they have learned by participating in the Elm Grove Forest Project and help prevent the disappearance of the largest forest in Bishkek.

Students who successfully completed this course will receive a certificate of participation in a project certified COP21.

Course objectives:

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

- Definitions and concepts of ecotourism
- Knowledges on cultural, economic and environmental impacts of ecotourism

- An awareness that ecotourism can become a means of economic development and environmental sustainability under certain conditions.
- An overlook of the good practices concerning ecotourism and environmental protection through examples from other countries in the world and from the case of Karagachevaya Rosha park in Bishkek
- Methods and statistics tools to create and analyze an environmental survey (according to the progress of the course)
- General knowledges on ecotourism for further study, personal development and participation in local and global environmental concerns.

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 form 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;

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. A project in relations with the topics studied in the course will be also proposed to the students.

Evaluation and Assessment: The students' performance is assessed on the basis of their participation during the lectures, including the familiarity with the reading material, note-taking, making assignments, creating and analyzing a survey, using basic statistics tools and written exams.

Examination: The students will take two exams: the first one is a mid-term test and the second one is an essay-type examination. The test consists of questions on short definitions and multiple-choice questions. Exam papers are composed of essay type questions, which require in-depth answers on the topics studied. No books, papers etc. can be used during the exam.

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

Assignment Points

Mid-term test (Multiple-Choice Questions) and final examination (Multiple-Choice Questions + Short Essay)	20 and 30, total 50 (maximum)
1 oral presentation and one project	10 for oral presentation and 20 for project, total 30
Active participation, note-taking	5 each 2
Bonus for attending classes and for additional works	10

Withdrawal of grades in case of poor attendance without reason

Minus 5 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

Work and Attendance: Students are expected to attend all lectures and seminars. Written assignments must be submitted to instructor by the deadline. The student may submit assignment late : at the latest by the next day after the deadline before 5pm, in that case 1 point will be deducted from the final grade for the work (e.g., if your grade is « A » for the work, after deduction, your grade will be « B »). Students are not allowed to use any mobile devices or portable computers in class. If instructor marked the student absent in case that the student is late for the class, he is considered to be absent for the whole class, unless excused by instructor.

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; a death in the family; participation in conferences or seminars with preliminary notification of the Instructor and submission of the relevant supporting documents.

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
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

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