

GEOGRAPHY 3430

Geography of Tourism

Syllabus

Instructor: Sig Langegger, PhD

Day/Room: Monday/ICB-107 and Wednesday/ICB-107

Time: 2:00 – 3:50 pm

Office Hours: Monday 10:00 – 12:00 and Thursday 10:00 – 12:00

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DESCRIPTION

One of the world's largest industries, tourism remains one of the most poorly understood human activities. Today tourism penetrates every corner of the globe, from ecotourism in the Amazon Basin and the Sahara Desert to resort tourism in developing countries and "Olympic" tourism in cities like Beijing. This course takes a wide view of this relatively new human activity, by first exploring the rise of the leisure class in the 19th century and its increasing desire to consume different cultures and different experiences. Then we will focus on the consequences of tourism, both positive and negative, on people and places. Among other topics, we will consider the impact of urban revitalization on marginalized urban groups, the contentious relationships between real estate speculation and environmentalism in ski resorts, and the multifaceted connections between tourism and the restaurant industry.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course students will:

1. learn to think critically about tourism and the tourism industry.
2. be able to identify where tourism intersects with social issues, local culture, geographies of place, economic development, citizenship, and urban governance.
3. be comfortable using technical and theoretical terminology in both written and oral communication
4. have gained insight into the history, development, and likely trajectories of leisure and recreation.
5. be able to critically think, write, and argue about tourism. That is, using appropriate evidence, you will be able support or challenge models and theories presented in this course.

STRUCTURE OF COURSE

This is a seminar, meaning that there will only be a smattering of lectures. The bulk of class time will be dedicated to discussion. All students are required to actively participate in these discussions. Students will not be required to memorize material; they will however be expected to comprehend and articulate ethical and philosophical concepts, synthesize these abstractions, and apply them to real world problems.

The first two weeks of the semester will be dedicated to constructing a conceptual apparatus that we will use to disentangle the complexities of leisure and tourism. We will assume the perspective of consumption. After all a tourist is the ultimate consumer, consuming exoticism with all her senses

as well as her purchasing power. After we carefully construct this conceptual optic, we use it throughout the semester to gain insight into many facets of tourism including mass tourism, ecotourism, and adventure tourism. More than just analyzing the act of consuming the exotic and experiencing the novel we will consider the impacts of the tourist gaze on architecture, city planning, and upon the working class.

Each week this course will follow a similar structure. Mondays we will discuss, deconstruct, and analyze the assigned reading. Wednesdays will be dedicated to deepening our understanding of the issues raised in the previous class.

READINGS

John Ury and Jonas Larson (2011) *The Tourist Gaze 3.0* Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks, CA

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Discussion Questions (12)	24%
Response Papers (11)	33%
Term Paper	43%

Each Monday I will lead our discussion of the topics raised in the primary reading with student questions. As such, each Monday students are required to submit two discussion questions. These questions must relate directly to each week's primary reading. They can be questions about the meaning of complex terms the author uses, the geographical contexts, the social contexts, the political contexts, the overarching thrust of the argument, the generalizability of issues raised, etc.

Each Wednesday students must submit a 250 – 500 word response paper. In this short paper students must use the framework developed in the previous classes to analyze the concepts or examples raised in the assigned reading.

At the end of the semester, each student is required to submit a 2500 – 3000 word term paper. The topic of the paper is at the student's discretion. However the paper must effectively use the framework developed throughout the semester to report and analyze a tourist destination or touristic activity..

GRADING POLICY

I do not grade on a curve. Furthermore, I insist that grades are *earned*; they are not *given*. The grade each student's earns on each assignment and her/his final grade will reflect individual performance.

All grades are final, unless students can prove finding a gross grading error. No extra credit will be offered.

GENERAL POLICIES

Academic Honesty.

Plagiarism is the use of another person's words or ideas without crediting that person. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and may lead to failure on an assignment, in the class, and dismissal from the University.

Students are responsible for being attentive to or observant of University of Colorado Denver and International College Beijing policies about academic honesty as stated in the University's Student Code of Conduct.

Attendance.

This course is structured around class discussion. Therefore attendance and participation of each student is vital for all students' learning outcomes. Not only is attendance required, it contributes toward your final grade. For exceptions to this policy, please refer to the University's policies on excused absences, emergency absences, and religious observances.

Students with Disabilities.

If you require accommodations, please alert me of your needs on the first day of class so that I, working within University of Denver and International College Beijing policies, may adequately provide them.

Civility and Classroom Decorum.

Silence all cell phones, beepers, etc. during class.

Unless being used as a part of a class exercise or to take notes, please close laptop computers.

This course is based in large measure on critical thinking and class discussion. Disagreement is part and parcel of these processes. Colleagues can disagree *and* maintain respect for each other and one another's views. I insist that we strive to learn from the differences that manifest while debating the merit of theoretical and empirical evidence by maintaining an atmosphere of civility during discussions.

SCHEDULE

What's Tourism? Who's a Tourist?

February 25th: Introduction to course

February 27th: The many facets and effects of tourism: (Video: Vail's 50th Anniversary)

Theories

March 4th

- Reading: *The Tourist Gaze* (Chapter 1: Theories)
- Due: Discussion questions

March 6th

- Special Topic: The rise of the leisure class
- Reading: Löfgren *Looking for Sights*
- Due: Response paper (1)

Eco-Tourism

March 11th

- Reading: *The Tourist Gaze* (Chapter 2: Mass Tourism)
- Due: Discussion questions

March 13th

- Special Topic: African elephants and a Chinese cultural obsession
- Readings: *New York Times* An Illicit Trail of Ivory to China; *New York Times* To Save Wildlife, and Tourism, Kenyans Take up Arms
- Due: Response paper (2)

Economies

March 18th

- Reading: *The Tourist Gaze* (Chapter 3: Economies)
- Due: Discussion questions

March 20th

- Special Topic: Authenticity
- Reading: Sharon Zukin *Reconstructing the Authenticity of Place*
- Due: Response paper (3)

Colorado's Ski Industry

March 25th:

- Reading: *Colorado Powder Keg* (Introduction & Chapter 1: A Gateway to the Mountains)
- Due: Discussion questions

March 27th

- Special Topic: The Alpine Gaze
- Reading: Erve Chambers (case study) *Tirol and Rural Tourism*
- Due: Response paper (4)

Colorado's Ski Industry

April 1st

- Reading: *Colorado Powder Keg* (Chapter 2: Go Build it on the Mountain)
- Due: Discussion questions

April 3rd

- Special Topic: Adventure tourism
- Readings: *New York Times* On Raw Edges of Cape Town & *New York Times* Boeing Plans to Fly Tourists to Space
- Due: Response paper (5)

Colorado's Ski Industry

April 8th

- Reading: *Colorado Powder Keg* (Chapter 3: Rich Man's Games, Poor Man's Taxes)
- Due: Discussion questions

***April 10th**

- **No Class – see me for extended office hours**

Working Under the Gaze

April 15th

- Reading: *The Tourist Gaze* (Chapter 4: Working under the Gaze)
- Due: Discussion questions

April 17th

- Special Topic: Life chances of service sector employees
- Reading: Barbara Ehrenreich *Nickel and Dimed – Introduction and Chapter One: Serving in Florida*
- Due: Response paper (6)

Changing Tourist Cultures

April 22nd

- Reading: *The Tourist Gaze* (Chapter 5: Changing Tourist Cultures)
- Due: Discussion questions

April 24th

- Special Topic: Homelessness
- Reading: *The Denver Post* Special Patrol Offers Help as Camping Ban Takes Effect
- Due: Response paper (7)

Places, Buildings, and Design

Saturday, April 27th

- Reading: *The Tourist Gaze* (Chapter 6: Places, Buildings and Design)
- Due: Discussion questions

***May 1st No Class – International Workers' Day**

- Special Topic: Historic preservation
- Reading: *The Wall Street Journal* Ancient Village Rises in Shanghai
- Due: Response paper (8)

Vision and Photography

May 6th

- Reading: *The Tourist Gaze* (Chapter 7: Vision and Photography)
- Due: Discussion questions

May 8th

- Special Topic: Extreme Photography
- Reading: *New York Times* Japanese Tourist Vacations on Syrian Frontlines
- Due: Response paper (9)

Performances

May 13th

- Reading: *The Tourist Gaze* (Chapter 8: Performances)
- Due: Discussion questions

May 15th

- Special Topic: Wine, women, and song
- Reading: *The New York Times* Snacking at the Roman Coliseum
- Due: Response paper (10)

Risks and Futures

May 20th

- Reading: *The Tourist Gaze* (Chapter 9: Risks and Futures)
- Due: Discussion questions

May 22nd

- Special Topic: Sex, drugs, and rock & roll
- Reading: *New York Times* Amsterdam Mayor says Coffee Shops will stay Open
- Due: Response paper (11)