Anthropology of Tourism

COURSE OUTLINE
Fall 2020

Vanimo, Papua New Guinea, 2007 (photo courtesy of J. Kennedy)

Instructor: Christine Kennedy
Email: csuck2@uwo.ca

Credit Value: 0.5 credit

Mode of Delivery: For 2020/2021 this course will be conducted online. It is asynchronous, meaning that students will be provided with a variety of lesson materials and activities that can be done throughout the week, although there may be tasks that must be completed by specific times.

Calendar Course Description: This course examines various aspects of tourism from an anthropological point of view. Topics will include the cultural effects of tourism on both hosts and guests, on the political and economic issues involved in tourism, on the connection between tourism and environmental concerns, and on conflict over local resources.

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: At least a 0.5 Essay course in any faculty.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The
decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Territorial Acknowledgement: Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Attawandaron peoples. The First Nations communities in closest proximity to the University are: Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee-Delaware Nation.

Course Syllabus:

This course explores various aspects of tourism from an anthropological point of view. As we will see, there is more to tourism than it simply being a leisure activity for the comparatively wealthy. Through engaging with studies based on ethnographic research, we will discuss questions such as: Who benefits from tourism and how? Is tourism a way of the wealthy to exploit the poor? How are local people represented, and how do they represent themselves, to tourists? How do the expectations and intentions of tourists shape their encounters with the people they visit? Which role do mediators (e.g., governments, guides and media) play, and how do they influence tourists’ experiences?

The objective of this course is to critically examine tourism, particularly its effects on both hosts and guests. Topics will include: tourism and culture; the political and economic issues connected with tourism; tourism and the environment, with special attention to ecotourism; conflict over resources; tourism and development, including volunteer tourism; sex tourism; medical tourism; and souvenirs and photography.

A detailed syllabus including specifics on assignments, a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings, and further course specific information will be available on the course’s OWL site in September before the first day of class.

Course Materials:


Paperbacks will be available for purchase at Western’s Bookstore. An electronic version of this book can be purchased via Amazon and VitalSource; for more information, please consult the OWL course website or contact the instructor.


An electronic version of this book can be accessed through the "Course Readings" feature on the OWL course website.

Additional required readings (such as journal articles and non-textbook chapters) can be accessed through the “Course Readings” feature on the OWL course website.
**Evaluation (subject to change):**

*More details on assignments, quizzes, and the final exam will be included in the full syllabus which will be available on the course’s OWL site in September before the first day of class.*

**Forum Postings**

*Forum Postings #1 (first half of the term) – 20%*

*Forum Postings #2 (second half of the term) – 20%*

The purpose of the forums is for students to discuss the readings and engage with other students’ thoughts. The forums provide us with the opportunity to learn from each other.

Students are required to make **at least 2 substantial contributions** to the forums **each week**. The contributions should be thoughtful, well-supported, clear and coherent, no longer than 2 paragraphs (per contribution), but contain more than 2 or 3 sentences. Your posts need to engage with the readings (and films). I am looking for evidence that you have read, understood and thought about the book chapters and journal articles.

**Quizzes – 10% total**

Students are required to complete quizzes on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. The quizzes will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions, and will cover readings, lessons material and films.

**Essay – 30%**

In this essay, you are asked to critically analyze tourism advertisements. Choose a holiday destination and search for advertisements promoting this destination in various forms of media (e.g., printed ads, websites, and commercials). Examine what these ads emphasize (in regards to, for example, landscape, culture, and local people) and what they leave out that you as a tourism student would like to know. For your analysis, you are expected to use points from different class readings. The essay is expected to be 1,500 to 1,700 words in length (excluding the reference list).

**Final Exam – 20%**

The final exam will be a take-home essay exam.

**Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course:**

In order to pass an essay course, the student must exhibit some minimal level of competence in essay writing and the appropriate level of knowledge of the content of the course.
In order to pass this essay course, students need to submit the written assignments (i.e., the essay and the forum postings) and receive a passing grade on the essay and either forum postings #1 or forum postings #2.

**Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations:**

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment’s due date or a missed quiz or test. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

**Statement on Plagiarism:**

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

**Institutional Statements and Policies:**

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding medical accommodation, accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences in Western’s Academic Calendar by clicking on this link: http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/academicPolicies.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=

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