

ANTHROPOLOGY 2272G-650

Anthropology of Tourism

Department of Anthropology

BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

Winter 2024

Version date: September 28, 2023

Instructor: Christine Kennedy (she/her)

Email: csuck2@uwo.ca

Course details:

This course is 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.

Credit value: 0.5

Requisites:

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: None.

Course Description:

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 the 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; photography and material objects; tourism and development, including volunteer tourism; and controversial forms of tourism such as sex tourism and slum tourism.

A detailed course outline, 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 before the first day of class.

Course Materials:

Required readings will be accessible through the "Course Readings" feature on the OWL course site.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

- Contributions to the weekly discussion forums
- 5 Quizzes (biweekly)
- Essay (at least 1,500 words in length; due in mid-March)