

Department of Anthropology

ANTHROPOLOGY 2272B-650: Anthropology of Tourism

BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

Winter 2025

Version date: June 14, 2024

Instructor and Course Details:

Dr. Christine Kennedy

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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

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 visited people (or hosts) and tourists. Topics will include: tourism and culture; the political and economic issues connected with tourism; tourism and the environment, with special attention to ecotourism; the struggle for 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 assessments, a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings, and further course specific information will be available on the course site in OWL Brightspace before the first day of class.

Course Materials:

All required readings will be available via the "Course Readings" tool on the course site in OWL Brightspace.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

- 2 Tests (multiple-choice questions and true-and-false questions; the first test will take place in early February, and the second test will take place in mid-March)
- Assignments (responses to questions; 2 out of 4 assignments need to be completed; throughout the term)
- Participation in Lesson Activities (throughout the term)
- Final Exam (multiple-choice questions, true-and-false questions, and a short essay; the final exam will take place during the April exam period)

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