

Department of Anthropology
ANTHRO 2272B-650: Anthropology of Tourism
BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2026

Date: June 18, 2025

Instructor and Course Information:

Instructor: Dr. Christine Kennedy

Method of delivery: Online (asynchronous).

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 full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL Brightspace site before the first day of class.

Course Materials:

Required readings will be available through 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 early or mid-March)
- Assignment (1 out of 3 required; assignments will be due in late January, early March and early April)
- Discussion Contributions (throughout the term)
- Final Exam (multiple-choice questions, true-and-false questions, and written responses; the final exam will take place during the April exam period)

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