

Geography 2144A
Geography of Tourism

Fall 2014

Instructor:

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Meetings:

Thursday, 3:30 – 5:30 pm, NSB 145 lecture
Thursday, 5:30 – 6:30 pm, NSB 145 discussion

Calendar Description:

Examination of tourism as a global, national and local phenomenon, with economic, social, and environmental impacts; emphasis on tourism in developing countries; hosts, guests, and tourism operators; tourism trends; mass versus alternative tourism; relationship between 'ecotourism' and nature protection.

Scope:

We are all tourists when we travel to and stay in places outside our usual environment. Tourism is the active utilization of gateways of discovery to expand one's engagement with the world.

Tourism everywhere has in common a range of defining features, including:

- The visitor
- The host
- Motivation
- Attraction
- Infrastructure, including transportation and accommodation
- Activities

- Spatial and temporal characteristics
- Economic, social, environmental and cultural impacts
- Development and management
- Marketing
- Expectations and experiences

This course examines the nature of tourism and its defining characteristics, emphasizing personal experience and understanding.

The course is highly interactive in its approach to the subject matter and places a premium both on student engagement with the material and their reflective understanding of the dynamics of tourism. It is taught using an online text, designed around the use of gateway cities from around the world. Gateways are primary access and entry points from which tourists explore and discover spaces and places through their activities and travels as tourists. Tourism is experiential and individual: its meanings are tied to our individual reflections and understanding of space and place as we engaged both with and within them.

The intent is not to proscribe a singular vision of tourism but, rather, to facilitate the discovery within each student of:

- Their own sense of self as a tourist
- The meaning of tourism to them
- An understanding of the pathways to lifelong learning and discovery that results from being a tourist.

Learning Objectives:

- An understanding space and place within the context of tourism
- A personal sense of the meaning of tourism
- A understanding of self as a tourist
- The discovery of reflective meanings through thematic exploration and interactive presentations

Required Text:

- Smith, L. G. (2012)

Gateways to Discovery. Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall Hunt

ISBN 978-1-4652-0938 <http://www.grtep.com> (purchase access code online)

Structure and Evaluation:

Grading in the course is based on three components:

- **Your Tourist Experience: 20%: Due: October 3, 2014 11 am**

Choose a location you have experienced as a tourist from the following categories:

- Country
- Region or state
- City
- Island
- Resort
- Specific attraction

Assess the nature of tourism for that location as you experienced it. Present your assessment as a **PowerPoint presentation**, with a maximum of 15 slides including title slide.

Presentations must:

- be submitted within Owl in ppt, pptx or pdf file format
- include a descriptive title and your name
- not use type smaller than 20 point within any slide
- not use the note section for text, only for the inclusion of references and hyperlinks
- not embed media (video or music) but rather provide a hyperlink to an external web-based location
- not be submitted in Keynote (presentations originating on a Mac should specify this within their title when submitting)
- not automate their animations or transitions between slides.

Criteria for assessment are posted within the course Owl website. Students do not present during class. Presentations may be published and shared within Owl.

Your Dream Vacation: 30%: Due November 7, 2014 11am

Choose a location you would like to experience as a tourist from the following categories:

- Country
- Region or state
- City
- Island
- Resort
- Specific attraction

Describe the nature of tourism for that location and why it would be a dream vacation for you. This is a dream vacation and not a fantasy. As such, submissions must:

- Include a realistic budget and time line
- Research the necessary logistics for the vacation
- Contain specifics that differentiate the generic tourism spaces from the specific tourist places within the trip

Present your assessment:

- As a PowerPoint presentation (maximum 15 slides and the same guidelines as Assignment 1) **or**
- Using an **online media** of your choice.

Students are encouraged to be creative and to discuss their media choice with the instructor or Teaching Assistants either during class discussion or office hours. Possible online media for presentation include blogs, online scrapbooks or interactive on-line media, such as Prezi.

Submissions must be within Owl, either as a PowerPoint presentation (ppt, pptx or pdf file format) or as a URL to your online media. A descriptive title must accompany the Owl submission.

Students have the option to publish their presentations in the Student gallery section of the *Gateways to Discovery* text.

○ **Final Exam: 50%**

Students have the choice of two exam formats:

Option A: Take home question (30%) November 27 – December 5, 2014 and 2 hour scheduled registrar’s exam (20%) scheduled December 6-17, 2014 = 50%

- The take home component will comprise one question from a choice of at least 2 options posted on the *Gateways to Discovery* course text website after the completion of the last lecture.
 - Answers will be submitted as digital files (in word or pdf format) using the Dropbox feature of the *Gateways to Discovery* website prior to **11 am Friday December 5, 2014.**
 - Answers will comprise 30% of the final course grade.
- Students also write the scheduled registrar’s exam but under this option the exam counts only 20% of the final grade.

Option B: 2 hour scheduled registrar’s exam only (50%) scheduled December 6-17, 2014

- At the end of the course and cumulative of all material covered in the course, the final exam is 2 hours in duration.
- The emphasis is upon reflective understanding of concepts and constructs, the consideration of meaning and not just description and categorization.
- Students get a choice of questions, from which they write 2 essays.
- Answers are written in essay format, with an introduction, body and conclusion.
- The registrar’s exam is closed book: no supporting material is permitted (an English language dictionary may be used for ESL students)
- No electronic devices will be allowed during the registrar examination.

Caveats:

- The professor reserves the right **not to grade** any material submitted after its due date without his prior approval
- The course is specifically designed to provoke participants to question, assess and formulate their thinking, beliefs, ideology and/or philosophy: a premium is placed on the development of thought rather than reliance upon pre-existing opinion. However, it is not a requirement of the course that students agree with, nor subscribe to, the beliefs, ideology and/or philosophy of the professor.
- All marking is subjective, especially when the subject material is as individualized and experientially defined as tourism. The professor commits to ensuring that the grading within the course is fair and consistent with both the criteria for the assignment and the performance standards of the specific

class cohort. However, the final assessment of any individual's performance within the course is his.

A statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Students in geography are expected to conduct themselves in a polite and civil manner. Students are reminded of the University Code of Conduct for Students:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf>.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the university, for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Support Services

- Registrars Services: <http://www3.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>
- Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

- http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf
- Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading
- Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Mental Health Website

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for more information on these resources and on mental health.

