Anthropology and Tourism

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Course Number: 070:292
(W) Bio 206 2:15-5:15

Course Description and Objectives

What does it mean to travel? To tour? To be a traveler, a visitor, a study abroad student, or simply on vacation? Why do people pursue pleasure through travel, or travel to learn about others or themselves? What does the investigation of travelers and tourists tell us about the world we live in?

To explore these themes, this course examines the relationship between anthropology and tourism. We will begin with a discussion of colonial tourism, the relationship between colonialism and anthropology, and the roots of both tourism and anthropology in Western imperialism. We will then discuss the commodification of culture, the visual and symbolic exploitation of “the Other,” and the role of “the exotic” in modern society. Drawing on literature on the anthropology of development and globalization, we will learn about tourism as a development strategy, historically and practically, and cover topics such as adventure tourism, eco-tourism, and sex tourism.

Course Objectives

- To provide students with concrete theoretical knowledge on the anthropology of tourism and cultural commodification.
- To teach students to apply concepts of socio-cultural anthropology to understand the diverse socio-economic contexts from which tourists emerge and meet across the globe today.
- To help students develop critical analytical skills in their perceptions and interpretations of the relationship between tourism, globalization, and social change.

Course Organization, Requirements, and Expectations

Attendance for this course is mandatory, and participation is an extremely important component of each student’s final grade. Students will be required to regularly check and access their Rutgers (eden) email accounts and the course Sakai site, available at http://sakai.rutgers.edu. The syllabus and all course readings can be found in .pdf form at the Sakai site.
The course will have a midterm exam and a final that will not be cumulative. Both exams will consist of a mixture of multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and essays. Make-up exams will only be approved in the case of an emergency.

Overall course grades will be based on participation in class discussions, pop quizzes on readings, weekly reflection papers, and the exam scores. Grades will be determined as follows:

- Midterm exam: 30 percent
- Final exam: 35 percent
- Attendance and Participation: 15 percent
- Reflection Papers: 15 percent
- Pop quizzes: 5 percent

Any late work or absences will be penalized unless under extraordinary conditions. Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/ to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me. In cases where you must miss class for periods longer than one week, you will as per university policy be directed to see a Dean of Students for assistance to help verify these circumstances. Absence on the day of exams is unacceptable and will result in a zero and most likely a failing grade for the course.

Throughout the course, plagiarism of any type will not be tolerated. Any assignment turned in with plagiarized materials will be given a zero and reported to the appropriate University authorities. See the Rutgers academic integrity policy at http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml. Students should also take Rutgers’ 20-minute interactive tutorial on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity: http://sccweb.scc-net.rutgers.edu/douglass/sal/plagiarism/Intro.html

Anthropology and Tourism: An Introduction

Class 1: Wed Jan 18
Introduction to course material:
- Review syllabus.
- Close reading strategies, writing strategies, and academic integrity.

Read for class:

Class 2: Wed Jan 25 – The Tourist as “Modern Man”
Read for class:
MacCanell, Dean. 1976. “Introduction” and “Chapter 1: Modernity and the Production of Touristic Experiences.” (pp. 1-37)

Class 3: Wed Feb 1 – The Other and Cultural Commodification

Watch in class:
*Cannibal Tours* (2-2625)

Read for class:

Class 4: Wed Feb 8 – Legacies of colonialism

Read for class:

Class 5: Wed Feb 15 – Studying Tourism Ethnographically

Read for class:

Class 6: Wed Feb 22 – The Changing Other

Read for class:

Class 7: Wed Feb 29

 MIDTERM EXAM

Class 8: Wed March 7 – Tourism and Development

Watch in class:
*Back in Business* (10-1314)

Read for class:

SPRING BREAK

Class 9: Wed March 21 – Tourism and Development
Read for class:

Class 10: Wed March 28 – Study Abroad/going abroad like an anthropologist
Read for class:
See: http://gurlgoestoafrika.tumblr.com/
Gordon, Robert J. 2006. “Introduction,” In Tarzan was an Eco-Tourist … and other Tales in the Anthropology of Adventure. (pp. 1-23).

Class 11: Wed April 4 – Eco-tourism
Read for class:

Class 12: Wed April 11 – Sex Tourism
Watch in class:
Cowboys in Paradise (10-2240)
Read for class:
Class 13: Wed April 18 – The post-tourist
Read for class:

Class 14: Wed April 25 – Tourism and Technology
Read for class:

FINAL EXAM