

## RECM 451 W – Tourism and Sustainability

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**Office hours:** Monday and Wednesday 12-1 pm or by appointment

### **Course description:**

This course will explore ideas of development and sustainability as they pertain to tourism in a variety of settings from local destinations to the global economy and environment. We will critically assess, through case studies, the opportunities and challenges for implementing sustainable tourism from an economic, social and environmental perspective. This class is designated as an upper division writing course therefore students will also learn and practice formal writing with an academic voice.

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a fundamental understanding of the concepts of development and sustainability within a tourism context.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Understand and explore some basic concepts of development
- Learn about the history and origins of sustainable development and the types of sustainability.
- Critically analyze the concepts of development and sustainable development.
- Explore and understand some basic concepts of tourism including the destination lifecycle model.
- Be able to explain the economic, social and environmental impacts of tourism at a given destination and globally.
- Critically analyze the sustainability of tourism at a given destination and globally.
- Be able to define and differentiate between ecotourism, adventure tourism, responsible tourism and nature-based tourism.
- Engage with current literature on sustainable tourism.
- Identify and pursue more sophisticated questions for academic inquiry.
- Find, evaluate, analyze, and synthesize information effectively from diverse sources.
- Manage multiple perspectives as appropriate.
- Recognize the purposes and needs of discipline-specific audiences and adopt the academic voice necessary for the chosen discipline.
- Use multiple drafts, revision, and editing in conducting inquiry and preparing written work.

- Follow the conventions of citation, documentation, and formal presentation appropriate to that discipline.

**Learning materials:**

Reading materials for this course will consist of book chapters and articles from peer-reviewed journals. All reading materials will be available on Blackboard. All lecture notes and handouts will also be available on Blackboard.

**Assignments and assessment:**

The assignments and assessments for this course will be used to measure your understanding of the topics covered and your ability to communicate that understanding verbally and through writing. The assignments will also provide additional opportunities for learning about and synthesizing the topics covered in this course. All assignments are due at the beginning of class and late assignments will not be accepted unless the student has a written and verifiable excuse.

**Explanation of assignments:**

Writing assignments: each student will write five (5) two to three (2-3) page papers according to the assigned topic for the week. The topic will be assigned one week prior to the due date. The papers should engage the reading in a critical manner and provide an in depth discussion of and reaction to the concepts and ideas explored in the reading. Papers should be grammatically correct and should not contain spelling or capitalization errors.

Final paper: Students will pick a tourism destination and catalog the impacts of tourism on that destination, analyze its current sustainability and provide recommendations to improve sustainability, using concepts learned from class lectures and readings. The first stage will be to pick a destination and write an abstract and outline for the paper. The second stage will be to review the literature that will be used for the analysis and recommendations. The literature review and methodology will be five (5) pages double-spaced, minimum. The next stage will be to write a first draft of the final paper. This draft will be graded and returned with comments. At the final stage, students will prepare their paper keeping in mind the comments made on the draft. This final paper is expected to be a minimum of 15-18 pages, double-spaced. All papers should be properly cited, grammatically correct and should not contain spelling or capitalization errors.

**Class participation and attendance:**

The success of this course depends on lively in-class discussion. Therefore, students are expected to come to class everyday well-prepared and ready to discuss the assigned readings and topics from the lectures. Students who do not prepare and those who miss class will find it difficult to succeed in this course. Those of you who do prepare and attend class regularly will learn a great deal and have fun in the process.

**Academic Integrity:**

Students are expected to abide by the University of Montana Student Conduct Code. Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. The Student Conduct Code can be found here in case you have any questions: <http://life.umt.edu/VPSA/name/StudentConductCode>

**Course Schedule:**

This is only a guide and is subject to change.

week of:	topic	assignment/assessment
26-Jan	theories of development	
2-Feb	sustainable development	
9-Feb	tourism theory	Writing assignment-1 due (2-10)
16-Feb	tourism as development	Writing assignment-2 due (2-17)
23-Feb	impacts of tourism/globalization	
2-Mar	impacts of tourism/globalization	Writing assignment-3 due (3-3)
9-Mar	sustainability and tourism	paper topic , outline and abstract due (3-10)
16-Mar	Industry responses: ecotourism/responsible tourism	reaction paper-4 due (3-17)
23-Mar	Planning for sustainability	literature review due (3-24)
30-Mar	spring break	no class
6-Apr	Managing sustainable tourism	Writing assignment-5 due (4-7)
13-Apr	Monitoring and sustainability	
20-Apr	current trends: community-based tourism, pro-poor tourism and other emerging trends	paper draft due (4-21)
27-Apr	Current trends continued	
4-May	best practices, organizations and certifications	
12-May		final paper due (5-12) in class

**Grading:**

There will be a total of 1000 points offered in this course. Extra credit will not be given.

The breakdown is as follows:

Writing assignment-1	60 points
Writing assignment-2	60 points
Writing assignment-3	60 points
Writing assignment-4	60 points
Writing assignment-5	60 points
Paper topic and abstract	100 points
Literature review and methods	150 points
First draft	200 points
Final draft	250 points
total	<b>1000 points</b>

900-1000 points	A
800-899 points	B
700-799 points	C
600-699 points	D
below 600 points	F