



SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course looks at the main trends in sustainable tourism, from the early days of the industry to the present. It emphasizes positive experiences in nature-oriented and other sustainable types of tourism, and highlights what makes them successful. We will also look at ecological, social and economic elements, determine positive and negative impacts, and learn and comment about local and international efforts to reach sustainability.

OBJECTIVES

1. Introduce basic concepts defining and describing sustainable tourism
2. Present and comment examples of sustainable experiences
3. Look into positive and negative impacts of tourism activities (environmental, economic and social aspects)
4. Highlight differences and similarities between ecotourism and sustainable tourism
5. Generate active interest and participation in sustainable tourism

METHODOLOGY

Active student participation will be required in class, and different approaches and methodologies will be used to promote interest and discussion, among others:

- Teacher presentations
- Individual and group presentations
- Debates and discussions
- “Brain storming” sessions

Students will also be required to dedicate 2 hours of independent work (readings, research, writing) for each hour of class

ACTIVITIES IN CLASS & FIELD TRIPS

The course includes the following activities: class presentations by students and instructor, guided discussions on class topics, field visits, brainstorming sessions, among others. Full participation is very important. Reading and topic presentations will be assigned and evaluated.

EVALUATION

• Midterm	20%
• Final examination	25%
• Homework & participation	15%
• Final paper	20%
• Final presentation	20%

COURSE CONTENTS

SESSION	SUBJECT/	SPECIAL ACTIVITY
1	Introduction to course (description and logistics)	
2	Nuts and bolts of tourism (definitions, history, statistics, development)	
3	Tourism and the environment	
4	Ecotourism (the Costa Rican case)	
5		Field trip #1 (Visit Lankester Botanical Garden)
6	People in tourism	
7	Food and tourism	
8	Agroecotourism and rural development	
9	Economic and social impacts of tourism	
10	Marketing and green-washing	
11	Global tourism standards CST: Costa Rican case	
12	Sustainable city tourism	
13	Educational and cultural tourism	
14	Sports and adventure tourism	
15	Coastal tourism	
16	Bocas del Toro case-study	
17	Tourism and health	
18	Trending now	
19	The dark side (crime, drugs and prostitution)	
20	Ethical and responsible tourism	
21	Final Project Presentations	
22	FINAL EXAM	



ICDS ACADEMIC POLICY

Special Needs

In case of requiring additional time for taking exams, or if experiencing any circumstance during the course of the term that would interfere with the student's ability to complete his/her work or take a test, students should let the professor know ahead of time.

Changes to Syllabus

The student acknowledges receipt of this syllabus and the information herein by continuing to attend this course. The Instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus if circumstances warrant such change, with previous approval of ICDS' Academic Director. All major changes will be provided to the student in writing.

Academic Integrity

Students in this course are expected to abide by common sense, normal regulations on Academic Integrity. Violations of the Academic Integrity policy include, but are not limited to plagiarism, fabrication, cheating, and academic misconduct, including dishonest acts such as tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of an administered or non-administered test/assignment. The intent to violate this policy also represents a violation of this policy.

Possible Sanctions for Violating Academic Integrity Policy

If an act of academic dishonesty is determined to have occurred, one or more of the following sanctions will be imposed, depending on the severity of a first-time offense:

- Reduction of a course grade
- An "F" for the assignment or exam
- Failure for the entire course
- Other action deemed appropriate by the faculty member
- Any of the above sanctions with the inability to withdraw.

The decision about the sanction to apply will be made jointly by the course's professor and ICDS' Academic Director, in consultation with home university on-site Director for the program, if applicable. The incident will be reported to the home university and may result in an official conduct record for the student(s).

Second violation

A second violation will result in suspension or expulsion from the program, in addition to any sanction issued from the list above.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

A Class Reader will be provided, and further readings will be recommended or assigned

Useful links

- The World Tourism Organization: <http://www2.unwto.org>
- Sustainable development of tourism: <http://sdt.unwto.org/>
- ICT: www.visitcostarica.com
- The international ecotourism society: <http://www.ecotourism.org/>
- Center for responsible travel: <https://www.responsibletravel.org/>
- Rainforest Alliance: <http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/es/work/tourism>
- ICT: www.visitcostarica.com
- Certification for sustainable tourism (Costa Rica): <http://www.turismo-sostenible.co.cr/en>
- Global sustainable tourism council: <http://www.gstcouncil.org/>