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PTRM 210S.01: Nature Tourism & Commercial Recreation

Keith W. Bosak

University of Montana, Missoula, keith.bosak@umontana.edu

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PTRM 210: Nature-Based Tourism

Spring 2020

Instructor Info: Keith Bosak PhD

Office: CHCB 466

Email: keith.bosak@umontana.edu

Phone: 406.243.6062

Office Hours: by appointment

Land Acknowledgement

The University of Montana acknowledges that we are in the aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispel people. Today, we honor the path they have always shown us in caring for this place for the generations to come.

Required Readings:

Readings will be posted on Moodle under the date and topic that corresponds to the syllabus.

Course Description:

The success of nature-based tourism depends on the responsible use and conservation of natural resources. As such, nature-based tourism has the potential (when properly planned and managed) to provide economic and social development while promoting the conservation of natural resources. Nature-based tourists are attracted to a wide array of destinations from remote wilderness areas to community parks. Therefore, nature-based tourism operates in many different economic, social and environmental contexts. In this course we will explore the interrelationships between various economic, social and environmental contexts of nature-based tourism.

Purpose:

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a thorough understanding of the social, economic, political and environmental contexts within which nature-based tourism operates. Understanding the complex interactions of human and environmental systems and the implications for nature-based tourism will broaden students' perspectives on nature-based tourism planning, management and monitoring.

Learning outcomes:

1. Knowledge of current trends in tourism and nature-based tourism.
2. Knowledge of tourism theories and concepts.
3. Ability to assess trends in tourism and commercial recreation using data on visitation, activity preferences, spending patterns and motivations.
4. Ability to discuss the importance of tourism in terms of ecology, culture, and economic development balanced with a social responsibility.
5. Ability to identify and analyze nature-based tourism markets.

- Awareness of conserving natural resources and maintaining the integrity of the indigenous culture.

Class Information and Expectations:

Academic Honesty: All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code.

Cultural Leave Policy: Cultural or ceremonial leave allows excused absences for cultural, religious, and ceremonial purposes to meet the student's customs and traditions or to participate in related activities. To receive an authorized absence for a cultural, religious or ceremonial event the student or their advisor (proxy) must submit a formal written request to the instructor. This must include a brief description (with inclusive dates) of the cultural event or ceremony and the importance of the student's attendance or participation. Authorization for the absence is subject to approval by the instructor. Appeals may be made to the Chair, Dean or Provost. The excused absence or leave may not exceed five academic calendar days (not including weekends or holidays). Students remain responsible for completion or make-up of assignments as defined in the syllabus, at the discretion of the instructor.

Disability Equity: The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office for Disability Equity (ODE). If you anticipate or experience barriers based on disability, please contact the ODE at: (406) 243-2243, ode@umontana.edu, or visit www.umt.edu/disability for more information. Retroactive accommodation requests will not be honored, so please, do not delay. As your instructor, I will work with you and the ODE to implement an effective accommodation, and you are welcome to contact me privately if you wish. 2. Any assignments submitted later than the beginning of class will receive a reduced grade. If there are legitimate reasons (e.g. medical illness proven through a doctor's excuse) which prevent an assignment from being completed on time, then a revised schedule for completing that assignment must be negotiated with the instructor.

Overall Class Grading	Percentage
Midterm	25%
Sustainable Tourism Video	10%
Reflection Paper	10%
Reading quizzes	20%
NBT Activity	10%
Final Exam	25%

Midterm (25%) and Final Exam (25%):

The midterm will cover class discussions, readings, and guest speakers from the start of the semester to the time of the midterm. The final exam will cover class discussions, readings, and guest speakers from the midterm to the end of the semester. There will only be make-up exams for excused absences and it is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor prior to the exam of the absence and a time to reschedule taking the exam.

Sustainable Tourism Video Assignment (10%):

Students will be asked to find a video of less than five minutes in length that represents nature-based tourism and the potential positive or negative impacts that can be associated with this type of tourism. Students will supply the link to the video along with a half-page write-up on why they selected this video. The instructor will review videos and narrow down the list to the top videos which will be viewed by all students in class. Three winners will be selected and will be awarded extra credit points that can be applied to their Readings and In-class Responses grade.

Reflection Paper (10%):

The student will select one topic covered in class during the semester and write a paper reflection on the readings, class lecture and discussions, and guest speaker (if applicable). Reflection papers can be turned in at the end of each section of the course for a topic covered in that section. The papers will be typed, double-spaced, 12 pt font, and 2 pages in length.

Reading and In-Class Responses (20%)

Students will be assigned readings each week and a quiz will be given on Moodle that covers the readings. The quiz questions will be used to guide a larger class discussion on the topic. Only students with excused absences will be given the opportunity to make-up the quiz.

Nature-Based Tourism Activity (10%):

Students will choose a nature-based tourism activity of their choice to participate during the semester prior to April 9th. This could include hiking, skiing, snowmobiling, birdwatching, etc. Students can choose to either create a video that illustrates the positive and negative impacts from nature-based tourism activities OR they can choose to interview a professional in the nature-based tourism field and write-up the interview and reflection. Guidelines and a rubric will be provided for how the assignments will be assessed.

Attendance and Classroom Behavior:

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and attendance will be taken. Students with more than three unexcused absences will receive an automatic drop in a full letter grade. Instructors may excuse brief and occasional absences for reasons of illness, injury, family emergency, religious observance or participation in a University sponsored activity. It is important that everyone take part in the classroom activities and discussions, and are not disrespectful of other students, faculty or guest speakers. Arriving on time and leaving on time, not engaging in excessive talking or disturbing activities in the classroom, and allowing for diverse opinions are some examples of expected behavior. Behavior in these professional situations reflects not only themselves, but the university as a whole.

A note on grades and the Moodle gradebook:

I will post grades on the Moodle Gradebook for your information and so that you can keep up with your grades on individual assignments. The Moodle gradebook serves only to show you individual grades on specific assignments. **The Moodle Gradebook does not accurately calculate your final grade.** For your final grades, I keep a separate spreadsheet.

Grade assignment

90-100% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

< 60% = F

Tentative Course Outline (subject to change!)		
Date	Topics	Readings/Assignments Due
Module-1: Foundations and principles of NBT		
Tues. Jan. 17	Class overview, expectations, introductions	
Thurs. Jan. 19	Introduction to tourism and NBT	
Tues. Jan. 24	Introduction to ecotourism and sustainability	
Thurs. Jan. 26	Philosophies and worldviews of NBT	
Tues. Feb. 31	Ethics and tourism	
Thurs. Feb. 02	Impacts of tourism (environmental)	
Tues. Feb. 07	Impacts of tourism (social)	
Thurs. Feb. 09	Impacts of tourism (economic)	
Tues. Feb. 14	Marketing tourism	Sustainable tourism video due
Thurs. Feb. 16	NBT and public lands	
Module-2: NBT in Montana		
Tues. Feb. 21	Sustainable tourism video contest	
Thurs. Feb. 23	Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research	
Tues. Feb. 28	River tourism and recreation	
Thurs. Mar 02	River tourism and recreation	
Tues. Mar. 07	Outfitting and guiding in Montana	
Thurs. Mar. 09	Geotourism and character of place	
Tues. Mar. 14	Geotourism and character of place	
Module-3: NBT around the world		
Thurs. Mar. 16	Midterm exam	Midterm exam
Tues. Mar. 21	Spring break	

Thurs. Mar. 23	Spring break	
Tues. Mar. 28	Cruise tourism in Antarctica	
Thurs. Mar. 30	Mountaineering in the Himalaya	
Tues. Apr. 04	Hunting tourism in Africa	
Thurs. Apr. 06	Wildlife tourism in Rwanda	
Tues. April 11	Voluntourism	NBT activity due
Module-4: Emerging trends in NBT		
Thurs. April 13	Dark and High risk adventure tourism	
Tues. April 18	No class- NBT activity	
Thurs. April 20	Drones and E-bikes	
Tues. April 25	Social media, apps and NBT	
Thurs. April 30	Nature-based festivals, events and races	
Tues. May 02	Spiritual and health tourism in nature	Reflection paper due
Thurs. May 04	Course wrap up and final exam review	
May 8-12	FINAL EXAM TBD	Final exam