

**Geographies of Tourism**  
**PTRM 554-01**  
**Fall, 2016**

**Instructor Info:**

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**Course description:** This graduate level course will focus on geographic concepts such as place, space, and scale and their applications in tourism research. We will also cover spatial analysis techniques and their uses in tourism studies. The course will begin with an introduction to geography and its importance in tourism studies. Next, background on concepts and theories developed within the field of geography will be provided. From there we will begin to discuss ideas of space, place, landscapes and scale. In our discussion of scale we will focus on the politics of scale and ideas of globalization and the global-local nexus. This will lead into a discussion of networks and flows as they apply to tourism. We will also explore political geographies and gendered landscapes as they apply to tourism. Finally, we will explore some spatial analysis techniques used by geographers studying tourism. The course materials will be structured to give students information on how each topic is conceptualized by geographers, current theoretical debates relating to the topic and its applications in tourism research. The course will rely heavily on current literature, mainly from peer-reviewed journals and book chapters. Students will be expected to engage with these concepts through the literature in writing and discussion.

**Learning goals:** At the end of the course, students should be able to know and/or understand the following-

- Understand the concept of tourism and how it relates to the field of geography.
- Know the fundamental geographical concepts of place, space and scale and how they are applied in tourism studies.
- Understand critical approaches in social sciences and how they relate to geographical approaches to studying tourism.
- Know the current state of knowledge in the field of tourism geography through peer-reviewed journal articles.
- Understand how subfields of geography such as political geography, economic geography and gendered geographies have been applied to tourism studies.

**Learning outcomes:** These are measures of performance that indicate to what extent, you the student understand the concepts being taught in this course-

- Be able to explain the concept of tourism through multiple definitions and explain how tourism and geography are related.

- Be able to define the field of geography and explain why tourism is itself a fundamentally geographic phenomenon.
- Gain a nuanced understanding of the fundamental concepts of geography, including space, place and scale and be able to apply each to the field of tourism studies.
- Be able to explain critical social theories as they are used in the field of tourism geography.
- Be able to discuss in an informed manner, the use of geographic concepts in empirical research on tourism.
- Gain a nuanced understanding of how various sub-fields in geography have contributed to tourism studies and be able to explain the relationship between each subfield covered in this course and the concept of tourism.
- Be able to communicate in writing the linkages between geographic concepts and tourism studies.

**Course structure:** The course will follow a combined lecture and discussion format and students will be assigned readings for each week (posted on Moodle). In addition, students will be responsible for participating in discussions and writing a weekly reaction paper that engages the topic/readings for the week. Finally, students will prepare a paper based on a topic of their choosing relating to geography and tourism to be turned in at the end of the semester.

**Topics and course schedule:**

The following set of topics and course schedule is tentative and subject to change.

<b>Class meeting:</b>	<b>Topic:</b>
8-29\ week-1	an introduction to geography and tourism
9-05\ week-2	an introduction to geography and tourism
9-12\ week-3	space
9-19\ week-4	space
10-03 \ no class	No class
10-10 \ week-5	place/sense of place
10-17 \ week-6	place/sense of place
10-24 \ week-7	scale
10-31 \ week-8	scale
11-07 \ week-9	globalization and development
11-14 \ week-10	political geographies (territory and borders)
11-21 \ week-11	Economic geography
11-28 \ week-12	networks\ flows
12-05 \ week-13	gendered landscapes
12-12 \ week-14	spatial analysis techniques (GIS and mapping)

**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.

assignment	weight
participation and attendance	10%
reaction papers	30%
annotated bibliography	15%
paper topic	10%
draft paper	15%
final paper	20%

**Explanation of assignments:**

Reaction papers: each student will write a weekly two to three (2-3) page paper that reacts to that week’s reading. 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. In addition, students will include a discussion question from each of the readings at the end of their reaction paper. Papers will be due via email by midnight the day before class. Reaction papers should be grammatically correct and should not contain spelling or capitalization errors.

Final paper: In the first weeks of the course, students will choose a topic of interest and begin to develop a final paper. The first step will be to develop a paper topic and abstract (Maximum of 250 words). Once this is approved by the instructor, the student will then develop the annotated bibliography in order to strengthen knowledge of the topic. Next, the student will develop a draft paper that will be reviewed and returned with comments. The final paper will include revisions made in response to the comments and will be due at the end of the semester.

Annotated bibliography: Students will prepare an annotated bibliography of ten references that will inform their final paper. Each article needs to have a proper citation and a summary of one page. Students will also introduce the topic at the beginning of the annotated bibliography in a page or less and then explain at the end how the articles will contribute to their understanding of the topic and be applied to the final paper (1-2 pages).

**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. 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.

**Equal Access:** The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation.