

**University of Montana; Department of Society and Conservation
Parks, Tourism & Recreation Management Program
PTRM 210: Nature-Based Tourism
Spring 2023; Meets T/R 2-3:15 in FOR 305**

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Office Hours: T/R 1-2pm

Description: The success of nature-based tourism (NBT) 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 economic, social, and environmental contexts. In this course, we will explore the interrelationships between various economic, social, and environmental contexts of nature-based tourism.

Course 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 social responsibility.
5. Ability to identify and analyze nature-based tourism markets.
6. Awareness of conserving natural resources and maintaining the integrity of the indigenous culture.

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. In this course, we will discuss the role parks and outdoor recreation played, and continues to play, in the history of the United States of America and how colonial constructs such as wilderness have impacted indigenous ways of life around the globe. We will also discuss what it means to recreate on native lands.

Materials:

Required textbooks – The readings for this course will be available on Moodle as indicated in the schedule below.

We will draw from posted readings and online resource: <http://appsolutelydigital.com/NBT/filters.html>

Internet – You will need stable and reliable internet to successfully complete this course, in particular to:

- Participate in Zoom meetings *if needed*;
- Download readings each week;
- Complete weekly reflections, quizzes, assignments, and online exams on Moodle.

Disability Equity: Access is a civil right. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). Programs at the University must be readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities, but is not always barrier-free. However, reasonable modifications will be made to guarantee program access. All modifications' requests will be given due process and consideration. 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 Lommason 154 or 406.243.2243. Any student with learning disabilities of disadvantages needing special dispensation or assistance will inform the instructor immediately during the first week of the semester. The professor will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation.

Requirements and Evaluations:

Reading materials, quizzes, reflections, assignments, and exams are posted to the Moodle site every week. Please make a habit of checking and downloading each week.

Percentage of Grade	Assignments, quizzes, and exams	Description
10%	Sustainable Tourism Video	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 that 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 response grades.
10%	Reflection Paper	The student will select one topic covered in class during the semester and write a paper reflecting on the readings, class lectures, 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 with citations.
20%	Reading Quizzes	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 allowed to make up the quiz.
10%	Nature-Based Tourism Activity	Students will choose a nature-based tourism activity to participate in during the semester before November 28. This could include hiking, skiing, snowmobiling, birdwatching, etc. Students can choose to either create a video that illustrates the positive and negative impacts of nature-based tourism activities, OR they can interview a professional in the nature-based tourism field and write up the interview and reflection. Guidelines and a rubric will be provided for assessing the assignments.
25%	Midterm	The midterm will cover class discussions, readings, and guest speakers from the start of the semester to the time of the midterm. You must make arrangements prior to the due date if special circumstances require an alternative time.
25%	Final Exam	The final exam will cover class discussions, readings, and guest speakers from the start of the semester to the final exam. If exceptional circumstances require an alternative time, you must make arrangements before the due date.
100%		

Grading Scale:

The grading scale is consistent with the University of Montana campus. The traditional letter grade scale is below. Please note this class is offered for traditional letter grade only; it is not provided under the credit/no credit option.

Grade	Points	GPA	Grade	Points	GPA	Grade	Points	GPA
A	93 – 100 %	4.0	C+	77 – 79%	2.3	D-	60 – 62%	0.7
A-	90 – 92 %	3.7	C	73 – 76%	2.0	F	< 60 %	0.00
B+	87 – 89 %	3.3	C-	70 – 72%	1.7			
B	83 – 86 %	3.0	D+	67 – 69%	1.3			
B-	80 – 82 %	2.7	D	63 – 66%	1.0			

Class Communication: The Instructor will use several mediums to communicate effectively: A detailed syllabus with clear assignment expectations; A course website with the class syllabus, website, assignments, notes and exam reviews; Announcements at the beginning of class. Professional agencies require that their employees use email to enhance agency communication. You are responsible for checking your account on a regular basis (at least twice per week).

Classroom Policies and Etiquette:

1. Class will start on time. Please be present and plan accordingly so you do not come to class late.
2. Please turn all electronic devices/phones off or on vibrate during class time. Personal phone calls/texting cannot be made or accepted during class time.
3. Late assignments will not be accepted after the due date.
4. Exams will not be made up unless a student has made arrangements PRIOR to the time of the exam.

Exams: There will be two exams. All material on the exams will be drawn from the readings, lectures, videos, and presentations. Any assigned reading may appear on exams, regardless of whether or not it was covered in class. Exams may include essay, matching,

multiple choice, true/false and/or short answer questions. Make-up exams will not be given without prior arrangements with the instructor. The final exam will be comprehensive to allow a broad perspective and wrap-up of the central topics discussed throughout the semester. If you arrive late to the exam, you will have only the remaining time to complete the exam.

Policies and Guidelines:

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all class sessions, submit all assignments, and complete all readings. Students with more than three unexcused absences will receive an automatic drop in a full letter grade. If you miss a class because of a verifiable emergency (medical, family etc.), religious observance, or have university excused absences for athletics or other purposes, we will make every effort to work with you to help you catch up, but need to be informed about it in advance. It is important that everyone take part in the class activities and discussions and are not disrespectful of other students, faculty, or guest speakers. Joining the class on time, being attentive and engaged, participating in discussions, and allowing for diverse opinions are some examples of expected behavior.

Assignment Expectations: All assignments must be submitted before the due dates mentioned below. No late assignments will be accepted. Extraordinary circumstances should be discussed in advance.

Academic Dishonesty: As a community of learners at the University of Montana, we value the Student Conduct Code (INTERIM) that embodies and promotes honesty, integrity, accountability, rights, and responsibilities associated with constructive citizenship in our academic community. The instructor retains the right to set the minimum "academic" penalty for academic dishonesty in a course. **(A student cannot drop a course in order to avoid being charged with academic dishonesty).** This course will follow the provisions of the University Standards for Academic Conduct: (for a full list of regulations and procedures, please see the [Student Conduct Code](#))

Plagiarism: Students should always make sure that their work is original. This is important because we must be able to gauge what we have learned. Therefore, copying the work of another person, whether in an essay or during a test, without referencing this person is considered plagiarism. Plagiarism is a form of cheating. Any time a student uses someone else's work and does not give that person credit, it is plagiarism. You must give due credit to other people's ideas by referencing or quoting the source. You should follow APA style guidelines – i.e., the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition. You should only cite primary or secondary source material – that is, go to the original source whenever possible. Citing Wikipedia is possible, but not enough. While Wikipedia is a very useful resource, particularly as a starting point for your research, it is not always accurate. If you choose to cite it, always provide additional references.

AI: AI Writing tools such as ChatGPT are welcome in this class, provided that you cite when and how you use the tool. We recognize that various AI programs are available to assist writers. AI programs are not a replacement for human creativity, originality, and critical thinking. Writing is a craft that you must develop over time to develop your own individual voice as a writer. However, within limited circumstances and with proper attribution, AI programs may be used as a tool.

Transportation Policy: Students are allowed to drive their own vehicles to any field trip but need to communicate with the instructor at least 48 hours prior to the day of the field trip. Students are welcome to, but *not required* to drive to field learning sites. Students who drive their own vehicles will not be reimbursed for mileage and are covered only by their own auto insurance. If students choose to drive together (carpool), please note the driver is liable for not only themselves but also the passenger (as with any private vehicle).

Campus Resources:

Mental Health Resources: University of Montana provides many resources to support your mental health and wellbeing through Curry Health Center. Check out this link to see a full list of resources: <https://www.umt.edu/wildlife-biology/resources/mental-health-resources.php>

Food and Housing Insecurity: Any student who faces challenges securing food or housing, and believes that this could affect their performance in this course, is urged to contact any or all of the following campuses resources:

Food Pantry Program

UM offers a food pantry that students can access for emergency food. The pantry is open on Tuesdays from 12 to 5 PM and Fridays from 10 AM to 5 PM. The pantry is located in UC 119 (in the former ASUM Childcare offices). Pantry staff operate several satellite food cupboards on campus (including one at Missoula College). For more information about this program, email umpantry@mso.umt.edu, visit the [UM Food Pantry website](#) or contact the pantry on social media (@pantryUm on twitter, @UMPantry on Facebook, um_pantry on Instagram).

ASUM Renter Center

The Renter Center has compiled a [list of resources](https://medium.com/griz-renter-blog) (<https://medium.com/griz-renter-blog>) for UM students at risk of homelessness or food insecurity. Students can schedule an appointment with Renter Center staff to discuss their situation and receive information, support, and referrals.

TRiO Student Support Services

TRiO serves UM students who are low-income, first-generation college students or have documented disabilities. TRiO services include a textbook loan program, scholarships and financial aid help, academic advising, coaching, and tutoring. Students can [check their eligibility \(www.umt.edu/trioss/apply.php\)](http://www.umt.edu/trioss/apply.php) for TRiO services online. If you are comfortable, please come see members of the teaching team. We will do our best to help connect you with additional resources.

Legal Support:

Students can get free legal advice. To learn more: <https://www.umt.edu/asum/agencies/legal/>

Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX:

The Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX supports UM's commitment to diverse and inclusive working and learning environments free from all forms of discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct. We work to eliminate barriers inhibiting individuals from achieving their full potential in education, employment, and other programs at the University. To learn more: <https://www.umt.edu/equal-opportunity-title-IX/>

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.

Course Withdrawal Deadlines: For full policy see Withdraw deadline policy link. If you need to drop this course, we recommend you do so as soon as possible. <https://www.umt.edu/withdrawal/how-to.php>

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Fall 2023**

	Dates	Topics	Readings	Assignments Due
Module-1: Foundations and principles of NBT				
Week 1	Tuesday, August 29	Class overview, expectations, introductions		
	Thursday, August 31	Introduction to tourism and NBT		
Week 2	Tuesday, September 5	Introduction to ecotourism and sustainability		Quiz 1 @ 2pm
	Thursday, September 7	Philosophies and worldviews of NBT		
Week 3	Tuesday, September 12	Ethics and tourism		Quiz 2 @ 2pm
	Thursday, September 14	NO CLASS- Assignment work		
Week 4	Tuesday, September 19	Impacts of tourism (social) (Guest speaker Megan Shultz)		Quiz 3 @ 2pm
	Thursday, September 21	Impacts of tourism (environmental) (Guest speaker Elena Bigart)		
Week 5	Tuesday, September 26	Impacts (economic) & Marketing tourism		Sustainable tourism video due
	Thursday, September 28	NBT and public lands		
Module-2: NBT in Montana				
Week 6	Tuesday, October 3	Sustainable tourism video contest		
	Thursday, October 5	Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research		
Week 7	Tuesday, October 10	River tourism and recreation		Quiz 4 @ 2pm
	Thursday, October 12	NO CLASS- Assignment work		
Week 8	Tuesday, October 17	Outfitting and guiding in Montana		
	Thursday, October 19	Geotourism and character of place		
Week 9	Tuesday, October 24	Geotourism and character of place		Quiz 5 @ 2pm
Module-3: NBT around the world				
	Thursday, October 26	Midterm exam		Midterm Exam
Week 10	Tuesday, October 31	Cruise tourism in Antarctica		
	Thursday, November 2	Mountaineering in the Himalayas		
Week 11	Tuesday, November 7	Hunting tourism in Africa		
	Thursday, November 9	Wildlife tourism in Rwanda		
Module-4: Emerging trends in NBT				
Week 12	Tuesday, November 14	Voluntourism		Quiz 6 @ 2pm
	Thursday, November 16	Voluntourism		
Week 13	Tuesday, November 21	Drones and E-bikes		Quiz 7 @ 2pm
	Thursday, November 23	Thanksgiving Holiday No Class		
Week 14	Tuesday, November 28	Social media, apps, and NBT		
	Thursday, November 30	Nature-based festivals, events, and races		
Week 15	Tuesday, December 5	Spiritual and health tourism in nature		Reflection paper due NBT activity due
	Thursday, December 7	Conclusion and review		
Final exam		Tuesday, December 12, from 3:20-5:20pm		