

## **PTRM 210: Nature-Based Tourism**

**Spring 2020**

**Tues/Thurs 9:30-10:50 a.m.**

**Location: 206 Forestry Building**

**Instructor Info:** Keith Bosak PhD

**Office:** CHCB 466

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**Phone:** 406.243.6062

**Office Hours:** Wed 1-2pm or by appointment

### **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.
6. Awareness of conserving natural resources and maintaining the integrity of the indigenous culture.

### **Class Information and Expectations:**

1. 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 Lommason 154 or 406 243 2243. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation.
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.
3. 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. The Code is available for review online at: Student Conduct Code Web Page ([http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student\\_conduct.php](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php))

| <b>Overall Class Grading</b>   | <b>Percentage</b> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Midterm                        | 25%               |
| Sustainable Tourism Video      | 10%               |
| Reflection Paper               | 10%               |
| Reading and In-class Responses | 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 questions will be assigned to readings. Students will turn in responses on Moodle (see dates on syllabus). Students will also be asked to respond to questions/activities during the class. The questions will be used to guide a larger class discussion on the topic. A rubric will be provided for how the assignments will be assessed. Only students with excused absences will be given the opportunity to make-up an in-class assignment.

### **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 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.

### **Grade assignment**

90-100% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

< 60% = F

| <b>Tentative Course Outline (subject to change!)</b> |   |                                |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>Module-1: Foundations and principles of NBT</b>   |   |                                |
| <b>Date</b>  | <b>Topics</b>                               | <b>Reading Assignments Due</b> |
| Tues. Jan. 14  | Class overview, expectations, introductions |                                |
| Thurs. Jan. 16                                       | Introduction to tourism and NBT             |                                |

| <b>Tentative Course Outline (subject to change!)</b> |   |                               |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Tues. Jan. 21  | Introduction to ecotourism and sustainability | Reading assignment due        |
| Thurs. Jan. 23                                       | Philosophies and worldviews of NBT            |                               |
| Tues. Jan. 28  | Ethics and tourism                            | Reading assignment due        |
| Thurs. Jan. 30                                       | Impacts of tourism (environmental)            |                               |
| Tues. Feb. 4   | Impacts of tourism (social)                   | Reading assignment due        |
| Thurs. Feb. 6  | Impacts of tourism (economic)                 |                               |
| Tues. Feb. 11  | Marketing tourism                             | Sustainable tourism video due |
| Thurs. Feb. 13                                       | NBT and public lands                          | Reflection paper (if chosen)  |
| <b>Module-2: NBT in Montana</b>                      |   |                               |
| Tues. Feb. 18  | Sustainable tourism video contest             |                               |
| Thurs. Feb. 20                                       | Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research | Reading assignment due        |
| Tues. Feb. 25  | River tourism and recreation                  |                               |
| Thurs. Feb. 27                                       | River tourism and recreation                  |                               |
| Tues. Mar. 3   | Outfitting and guiding in Montana             | Reading assignment due        |
| Thurs. Mar. 5  | Geotourism and character of place             |                               |
| Tues. Mar. 10  | Geotourism and character of place             | Reflection paper (if chosen)  |
| <b>Module-3: NBT around the world</b>                |   |                               |
| Thurs. Mar. 12                                       | Midterm exam                                  |                               |
| Tues. Mar. 17  | Spring break                                  |                               |
| Thurs. Mar. 19                                       | Spring break                                  |                               |
| Tues. Mar. 24  | Cruise tourism in Antarctica                  | Reading assignment due        |
| Thurs. Mar. 26                                       | Scuba diving tourism                          |                               |
| Tues. Mar. 31  | Mountaineering in the Himalaya                |                               |
| Thurs. April 2                                       | Hunting tourism in Africa                     | Reading assignment due        |
| Tues. April 7  | Wildlife tourism in Rwanda                    | Reflection paper (if chosen)  |
| <b>Module-4: Emerging trends in NBT</b>              |   |                               |
| Thurs. April 9                                       | No class- NBT activity                        |                               |
| Tues. April 14                                       | Dark and High risk adventure tourism          | Reading assignment due        |
| Thurs. April 16                                      | Drones and E-bikes                            |                               |
| Tues. April 21                                       | Social media, apps and NBT                    | Reading assignment due        |
| Thurs. April 23                                      | Nature-based festivals, events and races      | NBT activity due              |
| Tues. April 28                                       | Spiritual and health tourism in nature        | Reflection paper (if chosen)  |
| Thurs. April 30                                      | Course wrap up and final exam review          |                               |
| May 7  | FINAL EXAM                                    | (8:00 to 10:00am)             |