



## **RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

Requirements:	None
Contact Hours:	45
Recommended Credits:	3
Average independent learning expected per week:	8

### **INTRODUCTION**

The course looks at the main trends in sustainable tourism, from the early days of the industry to the present situation and future perspectives. It emphasizes positive experiences in nature-oriented and other sustainable types of tourism, and highlights what makes them successful. It will also look at ecological, social, and economic impacts, both positive and negative, as well as local and international efforts to reach sustainability.

### **OBJECTIVE(S)**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Define basic concepts and describe examples of sustainable tourism
- Be familiar with and able to comment on sustainable tourism experiences
- Look into and describe positive and negative impacts of tourism activities (environmental, economic, and social aspects)
- Describe and discuss differences and similarities between ecotourism and sustainable tourism
- Display interest and participate in sustainable tourism



## **METHODOLOGY**

Active student participation is expected in class, and different approaches and methodologies will be used to promote interaction, peer learning, and honest discussion, among others:

- Individual and group presentations
- Workshops
- Debates and discussions
- Brainstorming sessions
- Other group activities

Students are required to dedicate 2 hours to independent work (reading, research, writing) for each hour of class

## **ACTIVITIES IN CLASS & FIELD TRIPS**

The course includes the following activities: class presentations by students and instructor, practical workshops about concept application of class topics, guided discussions, and debates, as well as field visits, among others. Full participation is essential. Readings, essays, and topic presentations will be assigned and evaluated.

## **EVALUATION**

Midterm	20%
Final examination	25%
Assignments	15%
Final Project	30%
Attendance and participation	10%



## COURSE CONTENTS

SESSION	SUBJECT/SPECIAL ACTIVITY
1	Introduction to course (description and logistics)
2	Nuts and bolts (definitions, history, statistics, development)
3	Tourism and the environment
4	Ecotourism (the Costa Rican case)
5	Field trip (Lankester Botanical Garden – to be confirmed)
6	By the people, for the people
7	Food security, demand, and gastronomical routes
8	Sea, sun, and sand: coastal and marine issues
9	Impacts of tourism
10	Midterm
11	Marketing, greenwashing, and green seals
12	Rural and agricultural tourism
13	Urban tourism, SDGs, overdevelopment
14	Medical and health-related tourism
15	On the bright side: education, volunteering
16	Dark trends and ethics



17	COVID impacts and post-COVID recovery
18	Present and future trends
19	Students' presentations
20	Final Exam

## COURSE READINGS

Readings will be assigned every week for the following sessions. Articles and websites will be defined and assigned based on trending tourism issues and new and relevant material. More instructions will be provided in class on how to manage the readings and seminar assignments.

\*\*Check your e-mail regularly for reading changes and additional important course information\*\*

### Useful links

- The World Tourism Organization: <http://www2.unwto.org>
- Sustainable development of tourism: <http://sdt.unwto.org/>
- ICT: [www.visitcostarica.com](http://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](http://www.visitcostarica.com)
- Certification for sustainable tourism (Costa Rica): <http://www.turismo-sostenible.co.cr/en>
- Global sustainable tourism council: <http://www.gstcouncil.org/>



## **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.