

ANTH 393

Anthropology of Tourism

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Karoline Guelke

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Tourism has become one of the world's largest industries and a strong force of globalization and culture change. This course will provide an overview of anthropological approaches to understanding the complex processes of tourism. Based on a range of cross-cultural examples, we will explore issues of authenticity, commoditization, identity, and sustainability as well as consider ways in which tourism development intersects with inequalities based on gender, ethnicity and class. Special attention will be given to how these themes are reflected in the representations and promotions of tourist sites. Including the experiences of tourists, hosts and cultural brokers, we will approach tourism as a dynamic process that brings about new cultural expressions that are continuously negotiated and challenged.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Students will:

- be able to critically analyze the cultural, economic and ecological impacts of tourism
- develop an understanding of theoretical concepts such as authenticity, staging, power, and cultural identity
- analyze how tourism intersects with inequalities of class, ethnicity and gender
- critically evaluate representations and marketing of tourist sites and consider the viewpoints of multiple stakeholders
- engage with scholarly readings and articulate their views in class discussions, papers, and presentations