

Department of Anthropology
ANTHRO 2272A/650: Anthropology of Tourism
PRELIMINARY COURSE OUTLINE
Fall 2026

Date: May 28, 2026

Instructor and Course Information

Instructor: Dr. Christine Kennedy

Method of delivery: Online (asynchronous).

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: None.

Course Description

This course explores various aspects of tourism from an anthropological point of view. As we will see, there is more to tourism than it simply being a leisure activity for the comparatively wealthy. Through engaging with studies based on ethnographic research, we will discuss questions such as: Who benefits from tourism and how? How are local people represented and how do they represent themselves to tourists? How do the expectations and intentions of tourists shape their encounters with the people they visit? Which role do mediators (e.g., governments, guides and the media) play, and how do they influence tourists' experiences?

The objective of this course is to critically examine tourism, particularly its effects on visited people (hosts). Topics will include: tourism and culture; the political and economic issues connected with tourism; tourism and the environment, with special attention to ecotourism; the struggle over resources; photography and material objects; tourism and development, including volunteer tourism; and controversial forms of tourism such as sex tourism and slum tourism.

A full course outline, including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings, will be available on the course site in OWL Brightspace before the first day of class.

Course Materials

All required readings will be accessible through the Course Readings tool on the course site in OWL Brightspace, at no cost to students.

Evaluation

** Please note that assessments may be subject to change.*

Grades will be based on the following:

- 2 Tests: multiple-choice questions, true-and-false questions, and written-response questions (the tests will take place online in early October and mid-November)
- Discussion Contributions (throughout the term)

- Assignment: 1 out of 3 (assignments are due in late September/early October, early November and early December)
- Final Exam: multiple-choice questions, true-and-false questions, and written-response questions (the final exam will take place online during the December exam period)