

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF TOURISM (TOU221)

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**Lecture:** Thursday 0830 – 0930 (Venue C3)

**Tutorials:** Tuesday 0830 – 0930 Group 1 (C3); Wednesday 1300 – 1400 Group 2 (OD)  
(Tutorial sessions are subject to change due to timetable clashes)

**Introduction**

Definitions of *tourism* are varied, but in essence it includes "the activities of persons traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business, and other purposes" (WTO, WTTC, Earth Council). Historically tourism has been seen as an environmentally benign alternative compared to other economic activities such as mining and agriculture that are, in turn, dependent on the use/exploitation and transformation of non-renewable resources.

However, tourism has many negative impacts on natural and cultural environments such as excessive and inequitable resource use, destruction and fragmentation of habitat, social and cultural homogenization and commercialization, and, in some cases, economic exclusion. With the necessary precaution and mitigation measures in place, tourism can have numerous positive impacts as well.

This course focuses on the various impacts (at different geographical scales), of tourism on primarily natural environments (as shaped by the variations in the earth's realms and environmental conditions). Ways of measuring and assessing environmental impacts of tourism as well as devising ways to minimize/mitigate such impacts will also receive attention. A strong focus will therefore be placed on Tourism and Environmental Management (IEM).

(Material for the course, largely based on selected texts from reference list on the next page, will be made available on the iKamva platform)

**Lecturing/discussion schedule**

Week	Topic/Theme
1	Introduction & some contexts
2	Revisiting 'environment'; human-environment relationships; tourism-environment relationships; terminology
3	Tourism resources in natural and human-made environments (phenomena, patterns, processes, problems, prospects)
4	Trends in research on environmental impacts of tourism
5	Impacts on, and of different earth realms
6	Assessing & measuring different impacts
7	Minimizing and managing negative impacts
8	Sustainable environmental, nature-based and ecotourism development
9	Conservation & wildlife tourism in Southern Africa
10	Impacts of environmental change and variability on tourism

**NB!**

- Public Holidays: Wednesday 3 August, Tuesday 9 August 2016 - there won't be tutorials in weeks affected by public holidays.
- September Break: 29 August – 4 September 2016.
- There will be no TOU221 Lectures & Tutorial from 19 - 29 September 2016 – tutors will be available for consultation though.
- All lectures end 28 October 2016.

**Course outcomes**

- Students will be able to understand and explain the impacts of tourism on the natural and built environment.
- Students will understand how environmental impacts are assessed and measured.
- Students will be familiar and engage with ways of minimizing/mitigating/off-setting negative environmental impacts.

Students are also required to contribute, in the first 15 minutes of each lecture, to the compilation of a so-called 'billboard'. It entails the sharing and brief discussion of information re contemporary/topical issues in tourism in general and the environmental impacts of/on tourism specifically. Information can be collected from the mass media (print and audio-visual), academic and official literature, the internet, personal experiences, etc. It is important to provide full references for each contribution though.

**Assessment**

Format	Dates	Weighting
Tutorial 1	Thursday 25 August @0830: Submit 8 September 2016	5%
Assignment	Thursday 08 September @ 0830: Submit 6 October 2016	15%
<b>Semester Test</b>	<b>Thursday 15 September 2016 @ 0830</b>	<b>25%</b>
Tutorial 2	Thursday 6 October @ 0830: Submit 20 October 2016	5%
Examination	To be announced	50%

(Group work is allowed for tutorials and assignments. The possibility of a fieldtrip exists if allowed by finances and logistics. If such fieldtrip materializes, its assessment will be included in the weighting of the assignment).

**References**

- Keyser, H. 2002: *Tourism Development*. Oxford University Press. Cape Town. (Chapter 10) \*\*
- Keyser, H. 2009: *Developing tourism in South Africa: Towards competitive destinations* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). Oxford University Press. Cape Town. (Chapter 10) \*\*
- Wall, G., and Mathieson, A., 2006: *Tourism: change, impacts and opportunities*. Pearson Education Limited. Essex. (Chapter 5) \*\*
- Michael Hall, C. and Lew, A.A., 2009: *Understanding and Managing Tourism Impacts: An integrated approach*. Routledge. New York. (Chapter 5) \*\*
- Newsome, D., Moore, S.A., and Dowling, R.K., 2001: *Natural Area Tourism*. Channel View Publications. Clevedon. (Chapter 3) \*\*
- Newsome, D., Moore, S.A., and Dowling, R.K., 2013: *Natural Area Tourism – Ecology, Impacts and Management*. Channel View Publications. Bristol. (Chapter 5) \*\*
- Harris, R., Griffin, T., and Williams, P. (ed.), 2002: *Sustainable Tourism: A Global Perspective*. Elsevier Science Ltd., London. (Chapter 18)
- Horwich, R H (et al.) (1993): *Ecotourism and Community Development: A View from Belize*, in Lindberg, and Hawkins, D E (Editors), *Ecotourism: A Guide for planners and managers*. Ecotourism Society, Vermont.
- Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) (1996), *White Paper on the Development and Promotion of Tourism in South Africa*. Pretoria: DEAT.
- Tourism Geographies Journal - [www.geog.nyu.edu/tg/aims.html](http://www.geog.nyu.edu/tg/aims.html)
- International Journal of Tourism Research - [www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/10009388/home](http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/10009388/home)
- Peace Parks - [www.peaceparks.com](http://www.peaceparks.com)
- World Tourism Organisation (WTO) - [www.unwto.org](http://www.unwto.org)
- White Paper on the Development of Tourism in South Africa, May 1996)
- National Curriculum Statement for Tourism - [www.education.gov.za/Curriculum/SUBSTATEMENTS/Tourism](http://www.education.gov.za/Curriculum/SUBSTATEMENTS/Tourism) (\*\* Base texts)

tutorials start 8/17