Anthropology of Tourism
Anthropology 316

Summer Term I
5/24/10-7/2/10
Online Course

General Information
Instructor: Mary Conran
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Course Description:
This course critically explores how “hosts” and “guests,” the tourism industry and travel writers engage with tourism. We consider several of the major theoretical debates in the anthropology of tourism: tourism, globalization and society; the semiotics of tourism; authenticity and commoditization; the “host and guest” encounter; the political economy of tourism development; and tourism, the environment and sustainability.

First, we consider why tourism is an important topic of anthropological inquiry and how tourism both contributes to and is shaped by globalization. We also explore the semiotics of tourism and look at how the relationship between the “signifier” and “signified” is central to the touristic consciousness.

Second, we examine the relationship between commoditization and the perpetual “search for authenticity.” In addition to other topics, we consider the cultural politics surrounding the commoditization of culture for touristic consumption. We also investigate the so-called “host” and “guest” encounter and consider how these encounters have the potential to substantiate or rectify preconceptions about the Other. We then explore how postmodern sensibilities have contributed to the emergence of what has been called “new” or “alternative” tourism experiences. We also consider how volunteer, backpacker and eco-tourism may be representative of broader trends in contemporary society.

During the final section of the course, we consider the anthropology of tourism from an applied perspective. We begin by exploring the political economy of tourism development. We consider some of the positive and negative implications that tourism development can have for local communities. Through our reading of Jamacia Kincaid’s, *A Small Place*, and the video, *Life and Debt*, we survey some of the cultural, political and economic implications of tourism development in developing countries. Finally, we examine the relationship between tourism, the environment and the politics of sustainability. Among other issues, we consider the roles tourism can play in creating and potentially helping to resolve some of the world’s most pressing environmental issues.

Laulima:
This course uses the UH Laulima program. Laulima can be accessed at http://laulima.hawaii.edu. You will need your UH username and password to log in. If you are
unfamiliar with Laulima, please take some time to familiarize yourself with the program at: https://www.hawaii.edu/talent/laulima_students.htm

**Required Books:**


*** In addition to the readings above, you should read one of the three travel novels below. Your final exam paper will be a critical analysis of your chosen book (see final exam description below). Your proposal for your final exam is due on the third Friday of class (6/11). Thus, you should have read all or most of your book by this date so that you have a good understanding of the storyline and can write a quality proposal.

**Optional Books (Choose ONE):**

**Electronic Reading Packet:**
The readings which are not in the books are available electronically under **resources** in Laulima.

**Websites**
I have posted links to several websites in the resources section of Laulima. The folder is titled “websites” and it is divided by each of the six sections of the course. The websites are not listed on your syllabus. It is your responsibility to check the folder for the relevant websites. You are encouraged to use content from these websites in your response papers. You should be broadly familiar with what each website is about.

**Videos (available in Sinclair Library (full version) and in Laulima):**

**Mandatory**
Life and Debt

**Optional**
Cannibal Tours
Trekking on Tradition
Selo! Selo!

**Online Videos (Available in Laulima):**
We will watch several short videos online. They are available in Laulima. All of the online videos are mandatory. They are available in EITHER the resources OR the Modules section of Laulima so please check both. Each section is separated into folders that correspond to the six topics that we explore in this class.

**Week 1: Tourism, Globalization and Society (5/24-5/28)**

**Day 1, 5/24**
Chambers: Preface (ix-xi), Introduction (1-6) and From Travel to Tourism (7-30)
**Video:** Tourism and Globalization (*In Laulima*)

**Day 2, 5/25**
Gmelch: Why Tourism Matters (3-24)

**Day 3, 5/26**

**Day 4 5/27**
Stronza, Amanda (*In Laulima*): Anthropology of Tourism: Forging New Ground for Ecotourism and Other Alternatives (261-283)

**Day 5 5/28**
Mowforth and Munt: Introduction (1-10) and Globalization, Sustainability and Development (11-30)

**Week 2: The Semiotics of Tourism (5/31-6/4)**
Day 1, 6/31
Culler (in Laulima): The Semiotics of Tourism (1-10)

Day 2, 6/1
MacCannell (in Gmelch): Sightseeing and the Social Structure: The Moral Integration of Modernity (57-72)
Response Paper #1 Due

Day 3, 6/2
MacCannell (in Laulima): A Semiotic of Attraction (109-133)
Discussion Contribution #1 Due

Day 4, 6/3
Stronza (in Gmelch): Through a New Mirror: Tourism and Identity in the Amazon (279-301)

Day 5, 6/4
Fisher (in Gmelch): Sherpa Culture and the Tourist Torrent (329-344)
Video: Trekking on Tradition (Available in Sinclair)

Week 3: Authenticity and Commoditization (6/7-6/11)
Day 1, 6/7
Chambers: Tourism and Culture (95-120)
Response Paper #2 Due

Day 2, 6/8
Cohen (in Laulima): Authenticity and Commoditization (371-384)

Day 3, 6/9
MacCannell (In Laulima): Staged Authenticity: Arrangements of Social Space in Tourist Settings (Pg. 589-603)
Discussion Contribution #2 Due

Day 4, 6/10
Ingles (in Gmelch): Performing Traditional Dances for Modern Tourists in the Amazon (237-248)

Day 5, 6/11
Bruner (in Gmelch): The Maasai and the Lion King: Authenticity, Nationalism and Globalization in African Culture (207-236)
*Proposal for Final Exam Due

Week 4: “Hosts and Guests” (6/14-6/18)
Day 1, 6/14
Mowforth and Munt: A New Class of Tourist: Trendies on the Trail (120-147)

**Response Paper #3 Due**

**Day 2, 6/15**
Mowforth and Munt: ‘Hosts’ and Destinations: For What We Are About to Receive… (224-267)

**Day 3, 6/16**
Abbnik (in Gmelch): Tourism and Its Discontents: Suri-Tourist Encounters in Southern Ethiopia (115-133)

**Discussion Contribution #3 Due**

**Day 4, 6/17**
Brennan (in Gmelch): When Sex Tourists and Sex Workers Meet: Encounters within Sosua, the Dominican Republic (151-164)

**Video:** Rent-A-Dread *(In Laulima, aprox 10 min)*

**Video:** Love me Long Time *(In Laulima, aprox 10 min)*

**Day 5, 6/18**
Errington and Gewertz (in Gmelch): Tourism and Anthropology in a Postmodern World (91-114)

**Week 5: The Political Economy of Tourism Development (6/21-6/25)**

*NOTE: EVERYONE MUST SUBMIT A RESPONSE PAPER FOR THIS WEEK*

**Day 1, 6/21**
Chambers: Tourism, Society, and the Political Economy (31-68)

**Response Paper #4 Due**

**Day 2, 6/22**
Mowforth and Munt: Globalization, Sustainability and Development (30-46)

**Video:** What is Neoliberalism? *(In Laulima, aprox 10 min)*

**Day 3, 6/23**
Mowforth and Munt: New Tourism and the Poor: Making Poverty History? (335-367)

**MANDATORY VIDEO:** Life and Debt *(The full version is available at Sinclair Library. You may also be able to watch the video online. I have provided links in Laulima, but it is uncertain how much longer they will work. If you are not on Oahu, and cannot watch the video online, it is important that you are able to find an alternative way to access the video).*

**Discussion Contribution #4 Due**

**Day 4, 6/24**
Kincaid: A Small Place (1-40)

**Day 5, 6/25**
Kincaid: A Small Place (41-81)
*Outline for Final Exam Due*

**Week 6: Tourism, the Environment and Sustainability (6/28-7/2)**

**Day 1, 6/28**
Chambers: Nature, Tourism and the Environment (69-94)

**Response Paper #5 Due**

**Day 2, 6/29**
Mowforth and Munt: Tourism and Sustainability (83-108)

**Day 3, 6/30**
Mowforth and Munt: Socio-Environmental Organizations: Where Shall We Save Next? (148-176)

**Discussion Contribution #5 Due**

**Day 4, 7/1**
Honey (in Gmelch): Giving a Grade to Costa Rica’s Green Tourism (239-450)

**Day 5, 7/2**
McLaren (in Gmelch): Rethinking Tourism (465-477)

*Final Exam Due*

*Response Paper #6 Due*

*Discussion Contribution #6 Due*

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Response Papers (4 x 10% each)</td>
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<td>Discussion Contributions (6 x 3.3% each)</td>
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<td>Proposal for Final Exam</td>
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*All assignments are due by 11:55pm and should be submitted in the drop box section in Laulima.*

**Response Papers**

Each week a discussion topic/question will be posted in the discussion and private messages section of Laulima. You should contribute to the class discussion with a 1-2 page response at least four times throughout the term. Your response papers should be posted in the discussion and private messages section of Laulima **AND** submitted in the drop box. I will read and comment on your response papers each week.

While you can choose which four weeks you want to submit your response papers, you MUST submit a response paper for week 5: The Political Economy of Tourism Development. This is a critical section of the course and it is important that you are able to read all of the readings and
watch the video, *Life and Debt*. If you are not on Oahu, it is your responsibility to gain access to the video from an alternative source.

During the final week of class, response papers are due on the last day of class, Friday, July 2nd. Your response papers are your chance to reflect upon, engage with, and ask questions about the course material. You should refer to the week’s materials including readings, films, and websites. I encourage you to use relevant outside sources.

*Please cite a minimum of two concepts and/or theories and two authors for each of your response papers.* Your answers should reflect your understanding of the course material including readings, websites and videos. Be creative and include your own thoughts, perspectives and ideas. Your response papers should not be a summary of the readings. Rather, they are your chance to share your interpretations of the course content and to think critically about the course material.

Response papers should be double spaced, have one inch margins and use a 12-point Times New Roman font. Please include a bibliography of works cited. **Late response papers will be docked 10% for each day they are late.**

*Please note:* Your response papers must have an easily identifiable thesis statement in the first paragraph. If you are not sure how to write a good thesis statement, please refer to the following website (http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/thesis.html) or come see me.

**Discussion Contributions**
You will be responsible for reading your peers response papers each week and writing a 1-2 paragraph (approximately 4-12 sentences) response to **at least** one of your classmate’s responses **EVERY WEEK** (6 times), throughout the term. This is your opportunity to critically engage your peers in an academic discussion of the course materials. You can respond to your classmates’ response papers with any relevant discussion contribution. For example, you can engage in dialog, agree or disagree with your peers interpretations of the course materials, raise questions, refine concepts, ask for clarification or offer relevant examples from your personal experience. This is your only chance to “talk” about the readings with your peers, so make sure take advantage of it. If you don’t understand a concept, or what the author is saying, this is your opportunity to ask your peers what they think.

More than one response per week is encouraged but not required. Discussion contributions are due on the Wednesday following the last reading for each section. For example, discussion contributions for week one, are due on Wednesday, June 2nd. For the last week of the term, discussion contributions are due on the last day of class (Friday, July 2nd).
Final Paper Proposals
On the third Friday of class (6/11) you should submit a proposal for your final paper. Your proposal should include the following:
1. Working title
2. Working thesis statement (main argument)
3. One paragraph describing your topic
4. List of authors (at least 5) and their corresponding concepts/theories (at least 10) you will use to support your main argument
5. Working outline of at least three main points you will discuss in your paper
*Remember, this is your proposal, not your outline or your final paper. I expect that your outline and final papers will change as you move forward. The proposal is just to get you started thinking about what you will write.

Final Paper Outlines
On the 5th Friday of class (6/25) you should submit your final paper outline. Your final paper outlines should include the following:
1. Working title
2. Working thesis statement
3. One paragraph description of the following sections of your paper:
   a. Introduction
   b. Topics to be addressed (you should have at least three topics that you will address in your paper).
   c. Conclusion
*If you are unfamiliar with how to write an outline for your paper please email me as soon as possible. Also, you may want to consider one of the many online sources. A good online writing source for you to be familiar with is: http://www.aresearchguide.com/1steps.html#step4. In addition to other valuable information, you will find a sample paper outline.

Final Exam
Your final exam is a theoretically informed analysis of ONE of the optional travel writing novels (see readings list above). You should begin reading your travel novel of choice at the beginning of the term so that you will have finished enough of the book to be able to turn in your final paper proposal (6/11) and outline (6/25) on time. You should apply key concepts and theories to your reading of the novel. This is your chance to show your understanding of the course material and your ability to apply theory to a text.

Requirements of Final Exam
- Cite a minimum of 5 different readings from the course
- Cite a minimum of 10 concepts and/or theories from the course.
- Find, read and cite a minimum of two articles from academic peer reviewed journals (if you are not sure where to find peer reviewed academic journals please contact me).
- Include a bibliography of works cited
- 10-12 pages in length
- Double spaced, one inch margins and 12-point Times New Roman font.

*Final exams will NOT be accepted after the Friday, July 2\textsuperscript{nd} deadline. But… you are more than welcome to turn them in early.

**Extra Credit**

You can earn \textit{up to} 10\% extra credit for the course by doing any of the following assignments:

1. Write an extra response paper (4\% max)
2. Write an extra discussion contribution (1 per week max) (.5\% each, 3\% max)
3. Write a one to two page analysis of one of the three non-mandatory videos (Treking on Tradition, Selo! Selo! and Cannibal Tours) using concepts and themes from the course (3\% max)

\textbf{Note:} Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is invited to contact me privately. I would be happy to work with you, and the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodations in my course. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 (voice/text) in room 013 of the Queen Lili\textquotesingle uokalani Center for Student Services. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 (voice/text) in room 013 of the Queen Lili\textquotesingle uokalani Center for Student Services.