THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF TOURISM

Class website is on Laulima

From our vantage point in the middle of one of the world epicenters of global tourism, we are in a good position to reflect on the social and cultural stakes of tourism for host communities, the role of states in tourist productions, and the nature of tourism as a social experience—on both sides of the encounter. The course takes up the importance of tourism for political economies of capital, people, and images as well as more immediate practices of cultural display and performance. We will take advantage of our location by focusing on tourism in Hawai‘i, Asia, and the Pacific. The first part of the course draws from work on tourism in Hawai‘i and Oceania to consider the significance of tourism for indigenous communities and discourses of development.

In addition to exploring research on the social and cultural dimensions of tourism, we will ask methodological questions about what kinds of research strategy are best suited to work on topics tangled up with political and ethical issues associated with the subject of tourism. We will read a recent ethnography, *Tahiti Beyond the Postcard*, to consider one scholar’s choices in her investigation of tourism in contemporary Tahiti. In addition, each class member will be asked to select an ethnography of tourism and write a critical essay about that author’s uses of theory and method to reflect on ethical and political choices in tourism research.

As much as anything, this seminar is an opportunity for you to pursue individual research focused on places or topics that interest you. Final projects will be presented and discussed in the seminar before being submitted as final papers at the end of the semester.

Requirements. Grading is based on class participation (25%) and written assignments, specifically a book essay (10-12 pages) on a tourism ethnography (25%) and a final paper (20-25 pages, 50%). Participation will be assessed on the basis of engagement with readings, class facilitation, and involvement in discussion. In addition to the collective work of seminar sessions, each student will undertake an individual project that may be based the student's own fieldwork or media and library research.

Required Books [Kahn & Gonzalez available online through UH Voyager site]
Bruner, Edward. 2005. *Culture on Tour: Ethnographies of Travel*
Kahn, Miriam. 2011. *Tahiti Beyond the Postcard: Power, Place and Everyday Life*
Gonzalez, Vernadette. 2013. *Securing Paradise: Tourism and Militarism in Hawai‘i and the Philippines*

Readings listed on the syllabus, other than material from required books, are available on Laulima. If not there (and in the bibliography), the reading is in one of the required texts.
COURSE OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION: TRAVELLING CULTURE

**Jan 13** Introduction: The Cultural Study of Tourism & the Touristic Study of Culture
Film (in class): *Incidents of Travel in Chichen Itza*

**Jan 20:** NO CLASS (MLK Day) **DUE via email:** choice of text for book essay
Work on ethnography book and project proposals

**Jan 27** Theorizing Tourism: Culture & Travel **DUE: 1-page project proposal**
MacCannell, Forward and Introduction to 1989 edition, ix-xxvi; “Introduction:
“Modernity and Touristic Experiences,” 1-37; Epilogue to 1999 edition, 189-203
MacCannell, Remarks on the Commodification of Cultures, 380-390.

**Feb 3** Political Economies of Tourism
Helu-Thaman, “Beyond Hula, Hotels, and Handicrafts,” 104-111
Gonzalez, Ch 1 “Military-Tourism Partnerships in Hawai‘i and the Philippines,” 1-20

II. INDIGENOUS TOURISM: POLYNESIA’S TOURIST IMAGINARIES

**Feb 10** Tourism’s alter-natives: Hawai‘i **DUE: 3-page revised proposal & biblio**
Hawai‘i Ecumenical Council, “Tourism in Hawai‘i” 1-7
Patterson, “Tourism’s Negative Impact on Native Hawaiians,” 1-5
Trask, “Lovely Hula Hands,” 179-197
Gonzalez, Ch2: “Manifest Destinations and the Work of Tropical Fictions,” (21-48)
Video (in class): *Rap’s Hawai‘i* (excerpts)

**Feb 17** NO CLASS (President’s Day): Read Kahn & work on Ethnography essay
Kahn, “Introduction,” 3-29; “New Geographies in the Wake of Colonialism,” 30-60;
“Placentas in the Land, Bombs in the Bedrock,” 61-95

**Feb 24** Tourism’s alter-natives: Tahiti
Kahn, “Keeping the Myth Alive,” 96-126; “In the Cocoon,” 127-154; “From Our Place to
Their Place,” 155-180; Everyday Spaces of Resistance,” 181-207; E Aha Atu Ra?
What Will Happen.” 208-220

**March 3** Ethnographies of Tourism: State(s) of the Art **DUE: Ethnography essays.**
Present and discuss critiques of tourism ethnographies
No reading assigned
III. CULTURAL TOURISM

March 10 Cultural Tourism: Heritage & History
Lowenthal, Preface (ix-xii), Introduction (xiii-xvii), Heritage Ascendent (1-30)

March 17 Cultural Tourism: Ethno Theme Parks
Bruner, “Taman Mini,” 211-230
Ross, “Cultural Preservation in the Polynesia of the Latter Day Saints,” 3-16

March 31 Cultural Tourism: Performance
Desmond, “Touring the Essential,” xiii-xxv, “Cultural Bodies” 1-9

IV. WAR TOURISM

April 7 Dark Tourism
Sharpley, “Shedding Light on Dark Tourism” (3-22)
Bowman and Pezzullo, “What’s so Dark about ‘Dark Tourism’?” (187-202)
Logan & Reeves, “Remembering Places of Pain and Shame” (1-14)
Miles, “Auschwitz: Museum interpretation and darker tourism” (1175-1178)
Cole, “Auschwitz” 97-120

April 14 War Tourism: Philippines, Pearl Harbor, Vietnam
Gonzalez, Ch 4, “Remembering Pearl Harbor, Reinforcing Vigilance” (115-146); Ch 6, “Playing Soldier and Going Native in Subic Freeport’s Jungle Tour” (181-214); Conclusion, “Insecurities, Tourism, Terror” (215-224)

April 21 9/11 World Trade Center Tourism
Sturken, “Consuming Fear and Selling Comfort” 35-92; “Tourism and “Sacred Ground”: The Space of Ground Zero” 165-218

V. PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

April 28 Project presentations
Project presentations (presenters hand in notes or powerpoint)

May 5 Project presentations and Conclusion
Project presentations (presenters hand in notes or powerpoint)

May 7: Final Papers Due
Course Bibliography

Bowman, Michael S. and Phaedra C. Pezzullo

Chan, Gaye and Andrea Feeser

Cole, Tim

Desmond, Jane
1999 Staging tourism : bodies on display from Waikiki to Sea Worl. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Gonzalez, Vernadette

Graburn, Nelson

Hawai‘i Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism

Helu-Thaman, Konai

Kahn, Miriam

Kennedy, Laurel B. and Mary Rose Williams

Lennon J and Foley M.
Logan, William and Reeves, Keir

Lowenthal, David

MacCannell, Dean


Miles, William F. S.

Patterson, Rev. Kaleo

Ross, Andrew

Sharpley, Richard

Stanley, Nick

Sturken, Marita

Trask, Haunani-Kay