

University of North Texas
College of Merchandising, Hospitality and Tourism

HMGT 2810: International Sustainable Tourism

(Spring 2019)

Class Schedule: Monday and Wednesday 2 -3:20 AM (Gateway 137)

Instructor

Dr. Eliecer E. Vargas-Ortega, Centro Agronomico Tropical de Investigacion y Enseñanza –CATIE,
Costa Rica

Office: 359M, Chilton Hall

Email: eliecer.vargasortega@unt.edu

Phone: (940) 369-7680

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1:00 PM-3:00 PM or by appointment Student Assistant:
Victoria Baghaei (Email: victoriabaghaei@my.unt.edu)

Course Description

According to the World Tourism Organization, sustainable tourism is tourism that leads to the management of all resources in such a way that economic, social and aesthetic needs can be fulfilled while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity and life support systems. The new sustainability paradigm gives compelling reasons for governments and the conventional tourism activity to seriously pursue the implementation of sustainable policies and practices.

The course explores the key sustainability-related themes in tourism and challenges for implementation of the operators and suppliers of tourism. Students will also gain the understanding of the economic, environmental and social aspects of tourism and why sustainability is a necessity.

Course Objectives

The participant will be able to:

- Understand the sustainable tourism development core issues: the economic tourism impacts, social and cultural tourism impacts, and environmental impacts
- Understand issues in policy and planning for sustainable tourism
- Understand the major components of the sustainable tourism industry (Triple bottom line)
- Identify tourism stakeholders as base and support for sustainable tourism development
- Understand the role of key international organizations and stakeholders as support of sustainable tourism development

Course Materials (Recommended but not required)

World Tourism Organization and United Nation Environmental Program (2005). Making Tourism More Sustainable: A guide for policy makers. WTO

Mowforth, Martin and Munt, Ian (2016). *Tourism and Sustainability: Development, globalization and ne tourism in the third world*. Routledge, ed. London and New York.

Liburd, J. J., & Edwards, D. (2010). Understanding the Sustainable Development of Tourism. (Textbook is available through course reserve at Willis Library)

Note*: Additional readings and handouts will be provided on Canvas (Make sure to visit Canvas regularly to get updates on the course materials)

NOTE: This is not an on-line class. Some materials and grades will be available on-line to assist you. This is a regular lecture/discussion in-class format class! The classroom is the main forum for all activities, announcements, changes to the syllabus, exam dates etc. If you miss a class, you might miss such important announcements. Please be sure to be in touch with some of your classmates to catch up on missed assignments and announcements.

Classroom Expectations

- Arrive on time to class. If you miss an assignment collection or an in-class activity due to an unexcused absence, you will not receive credit for that particular assignment.
- Arrive prepared to participate in the discussion session. Do not sleep, read newspapers, books, magazines, or work on other assignments during class time.
- Refrain from using your cell phone in the classroom.
- Be respectful of your classmate's opinions and contributions to classroom discussions. Inevitably, others will have different views than you on a certain topic. These dialogues should encourage each of us to think about topics from a new perspective, and will contribute to a lively discussion.
- Honest and ethical conduct is both a required academic and professional behavior. Students who are found cheating, plagiarizing, or demonstrating poor ethical decision making will be subject to the full range of academic penalties presented in the Student Code of Conduct.

Grading

The weight of each course requirement will be as follows:

<i>Participation and Discussion</i>	<i>75 points</i>
<i>Pop-Quizzes</i>	<i>25 points</i>
<i>Online Forum Discussion</i>	<i>60 points</i>
<i>Midterm Exam</i>	<i>75 points</i>
<i>Final Exam</i>	<i>75 points</i>
<i>Sustainable Tourism Paper (*Includes Presentation)</i>	<i>190 points</i>
<i>Total 500 Points</i>	

***Note:** All the assignments are individual except for Sustainable Tourism Paper. Look at the course schedule for specific due dates.

Grading Details:

1. Attendance and participation:	75 Points (5*15)
2. Pop-Quizzes:	25 Points (5*5)
3. Online Forum Discussion:	60 Points (30*2)
4. Midterm and Final Exam:	150 Points (75*2)
5. Sustainable Tourism Paper (Includes Group Presentation):	190 Points
Part I: Group Formation and Identification of Tourism Destination (10 Points)	
Part II: Background of Tourism Destination (20 Points)	
Part III: Impacts in Tourism Destinations (35 Points)	
Part IV: Final Report (with additional components-Tourism Policy and Planning, Conclusion, and Recommendations) (65 Points)	
Part V: Group Presentations (40 Points)	
Part VI: Peer Evaluation for Group Project (20 Points)	

Letter Grades:

This following grading scale will be used to determine final grade:

A	90%-100%
B	80%-89.9%
C	70%-79.9%
D	60%-69.9%
F	Below 60%

Course Requirements

Attendance

Attendance in class is mandatory. You must stay until dismissed by the instructor to be counted as "present." Students leaving during the class period without making prior arrangements with the instructor will be considered absent. Attendance will be calculated as part of the class participation grade. Any student with more than 4 unexcused absences (5 or more) for the class will lose all possible participation points for the course (75 Points). Student participation in class and discussions along with group exercises is required. Individual/group discussion sessions are designed to give you a broader understanding of the topic as well as opportunities for in-depth investigations. Please utilize discussion sessions efficiently.

Excused Class Absences

Excused absences require a written explanation and include only documented emergencies (e.g., medical problem), university excused/sponsored events (you are provided an excused slip from

the dean of students), or a CMHT event. All documentation for excused absences must be provided to the instructor no later than one week after excused absence and before the final exam in the class. Failure to provide an explanation within this time frame will be considered unexcused.

Online Discussion Forum

The online discussion forum will allow each student to assess online video and peer-review journal articles (related to course content). The guideline will be posted on Canvas.

Exams

There will be two exams (Exam 1 and 2), each exam will cover the materials discussed and covered in the class (readings and lecture notes). Details for the exams will be provided during the class.

Make-up Examinations: Make-up exams will NOT be scheduled unless arrangements are made prior to the examination. Make-up exams will be arranged only under reasonable circumstances deemed as such by the instructor. Under no circumstances whatsoever will a student be allowed to make-up an exam once the regularly scheduled exam has been administered unless she/he has made prior arrangements with the instructor. All requests should be made as early as possible and sufficient evidence must be presented to support requests (i.e., doctor's note, Emergency Dean note, etc.).

Pop-Quizzes

There will be in-class pop-quizzes (worth 25 points-5*5), which will be based on the content covered in the class. Pop-quizzes will be announced during the class including the details (e.g., assigned readings and the date). There will be no make-up opportunities for unexcused absences, and make-up opportunities for excused absences will be provided within a limited timeframe-you need to consult your instructor in advance for such arrangements.

Sustainable Tourism Paper

Students are expected to work on a sustainable tourism paper, look at the assignment details for the components of sustainable tourism paper. Guideline for this assignment will be discussed in the class and uploaded on Canvas for a reference. This is a group project and a group of 4-5 students will be responsible to lead this assignment. Your instructor will facilitate group formation if you do not already have your peers in mind; you are welcome to report your group members for this assignment. Details will be further discussed in the class.

All written assignments MUST follow this format:

- Typeface: Times New Roman
- Font: 12
- Margins: 1" on each side (and top and bottom)
- Spacing: 1.5
- Headings: Bold and/or underlined
- Ink color: Black

Class Schedule

Tentative Class Schedule*(Subject to change as needed)

Week	Dates	Topics	Remarks
Week 1	January 14 and 16	Syllabus overview & course expectations	First Day of Class!
Week 2	January 23	Introduction to tourism	
Week 3	January 28 and 30	Economic aspects of tourism	Project Part I Due
Week 4	February 4 and 6	Socio-cultural aspects of tourism	
Week 5	February 11 and 13	Environmental aspects of tourism	Project Part II Due 2/13
Week 6	February 18 and 20	Gringo Trails by Pegi Vail (Video)	Online Forum Discussion Due 20/2
Week 7	February 25 and 27	Tourism and sustainability	Midterm Exam Review
Week 8	March 4 and 6	Midterm Exam In-class Midterm Exam	During Regular Class Hours on March 4
Week 9	March 18 and 20	Planning for sustainable tourism	Guest Lecture: TBA
Week 10	March 25 and 27	Tourism development models	Project Part III Due 27/3
Week 11	April 1 and 3	Corporate social responsibility and triple bottom line	
Week 12	April 8 and 10	Ecotourism and volunteer tourism	Guest Lecture: TBA
Week 13	April 15 and 17	Aims for sustainable tourism	Online Forum Discussion (Journal Article) Due
Week 14	April 22 and 24	Group Presentation Final Exam Review	Peer Evaluation Due 4/22 (In-class) Project Part IV Due 4/24
Week 15	April 29 and May 1	Group Presentation	
Week 16	May 6 and 8	Final Exam In-class Final Exam / Essentials of sustainability	During Regular Class Hours May 6

Revisions

The instructor reserves the right to revise this syllabus and list of requirements when, in his judgement, such revision will benefit the advancement of the course goals and objectives.

College of Merchandising, Hospitality & Tourism

Syllabus Statements

Spring, 2019

Have you met with your advisor?

- **ALL** students are expected to meet with their Academic Advisor **each semester** to update your degree plan and to stay on track for a timely graduation.

Do you want to graduate on time?

- Advisors help you sequence courses correctly for an “on time” graduation. Ultimately, it is a student’s responsibility to ensure they have met all prerequisites before enrolling in a class.
- A prerequisite is a course or other preparation that must be successfully completed before enrollment in another course. All prerequisites are included in catalog course descriptions.
- Students that lack prerequisites for a course are not allowed to remain in the course.
- Once classes begin, students often have few, if any, options for adding a different course, which can be an issue for financial aid.

Are You Considering Transferring a Course to Meet UNT Degree Requirements?

Any transfer course(s) from another institution must receive *prior approval* from your CMHT Academic Advisor to ensure that the course(s) will be applicable to your degree plan at UNT.

Advising Contact Information (Chilton Hall 385 – 940.565.4635)

Could you be dropped?

- Students will be dropped for nonpayment for enrolled courses, parking fees, schedule change fees, etc. Please check your account daily through the 12th class day to ensure you have not been dropped for non-payment of any amount. It is the student’s responsibility to make all payments on time.
- ***Students cannot be reinstated for any reason after the 12th class day regardless of situation.***

Are you receiving financial aid?

- A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue receiving financial aid by maintaining a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA and successfully completing the required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per semester. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose financial aid eligibility. Visit <https://financialaid.unt.edu/sap> for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress.

Are you thinking about dropping course?

- **A decision to drop a course may affect your current and future financial aid eligibility.** Talk to your academic advisor or Student Financial Aid if you are thinking about dropping a course.
- Speak with the course instructor to discuss any possible options to be successful in the course before dropping.
- Meeting deadlines for dropping a course are the student's responsibility.
- **After the 12th class day, students cannot drop a course online** through your my.UNT Student Portal. Effective Fall 2018, the procedure to drop a course changed. See <https://registrar.unt.edu/regISTRATION/dropping-class>

Do you know these important dates in Spring 2019

January 14	First day of class
January 21	MLK Jr. Day – UNT is closed, so no classes
January 18	Last day for change of schedule other than a drop. (Last day to add a class.)

Do you require special accommodations?

The University of North Texas and the College of Merchandising, Hospitality and Tourism make reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Are you aware of safety regulations?

Students are urged to use proper safety procedures and guidelines. In lab sessions, students are expected and required to identify and use property safety guidelines in all activities requiring lifting, climbing, walking on slippery surfaces, using equipment and tools, handling chemical solutions and hot and cold products. Students should be aware that the University of North Texas is not liable for injuries incurred while students are participating in class activities. All students are encouraged to secure adequate insurance coverage in the event of accidental injury. Students who do not have insurance coverage should consider obtaining Student Health Insurance for this insurance program. Brochures for this insurance are available in the UNT Health and Wellness Center on campus. Students who are injured during class activities may

seek medical attention at the UNT Health and Wellness Center at rates that are reduced compared to other medical facilities. If you have an insurance plan other than Student Health Insurance at UNT, please be sure that your plan covers treatment at this facility. If you choose not to go to the UNT Health and Wellness Center, you may be transported to an emergency room at a local hospital. You are responsible for expenses incurred there.

Do you know the penalties of academic dishonesty?

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or exams; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor, the acquisition of tests or other material belonging to a faculty member, dual submission of a paper or project, resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructors, or any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. Plagiarism includes the paraphrase or direct quotation of published or unpublished works without full and clear acknowledgment of the author/source. Academic dishonesty will bring about disciplinary action which may include expulsion from the university. This is explained in the UNT Student Handbook. Individual faculty should include penalties for academic dishonesty in their courses.

The College of Merchandising, Hospitality and Tourism requires that students respect and maintain all university property. Students are accountable through disciplinary action for any intentional damages they cause in classrooms. (e.g., writing on tables). Disruptive behavior is not tolerated (e.g., arriving late, leaving early, sleeping, talking on the phone, texting or game playing, making inappropriate comments, ringing cellular phones/beepers, dressing inappropriately).