

## COURSE OUTLINE

### CONTEMPORARY APPROACHES TO ECOTOURISM

#### (1) GENERAL

<b>SCHOOL</b>	TECHNOLOGY		
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	FORESTRY, WOOD SCIENCES & DESIGN		
<b>LEVEL</b>	POSTGRADUATE		
<b>COURSE CODE</b>	MB127	<b>SEMESTER</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	CONTEMPORARY APPROACHES TO ECOTOURISM		
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>WEEKLY HOURS</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
Lectures		2	6
<b>TOTAL</b>		2	6
<b>TYPE OF COURSE</b>	ELECTIVE		
<b>PREREQUISITES</b>	NO		
<b>LANGUAGE OF TEACHING AND EXAMINATION</b>	GREEK		
<b>THE COURSE IS OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS</b>	NO		
<b>WEBPAGE COURSE (URL)</b>	<a href="https://eclass.uth.gr/courses/FWSD_P_117/">https://eclass.uth.gr/courses/FWSD_P_117/</a>		

#### (2) LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning Outcomes
<p>With a history of more than 40 years and experiences from many corners of the planet, Ecotourism has gone through many stages to establish itself as an alternative form of tourism. The ecotourism "industry" is constantly evolving and expanding and gaining more and more friends, but also rules of ethics and conduct to distinguish it from the conventional tourism industry, even from the part of the latter that tries to offer little more than the standard of "3 S (sun, sea, beach)" to the tourist.</p> <p>The purpose of the course is to get to know Ecotourism as a category of sustainable tourism with great prospects for the rural economy in our country, in protected and non-protected areas, and to highlight modern approaches to the development and implementation of ecotourism activities.</p> <p>Upon successful completion of the course, the student will have the necessary knowledge about the ecotourism dimension of the utilization of the natural environment and will be able:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To distinguish the values of the natural environment (and elements of biodiversity) that can be sources of material for the development of recreational activities, ecotourism activities and environmental interpretation activities.</li> <li>• Identify its "strengths" and capabilities and describe its characteristics of ecotourism recreation depending on the background, human resources and the special characteristics of the area being exploited, and to distinguish the economic prospects of related investments.</li> <li>• To recognize and describe the potential for ecotourism (and sometimes agrotourism) utilization of an area and to set the principles for assessing its carrying capacity and drawing up an ecotourism utilization plan.</li> <li>• To identify suitable locations for the development of ecotourism activities and the installation of infrastructure, such as visitor information centers/stations, the construction of paths and the placement of information signs with appropriate and updated content.</li> <li>• To recognize the social and economic impacts, but also the environmental impacts of tourism and ecotourism and forest recreation activities.</li> <li>• To present to the manager and the staff of an ecotourism business the basic principles of sustainable utilization of the natural environment and management of the business in this light.</li> </ul>

- To determine the framework for the development of a tourism impact monitoring system in a region and formulate proposals for the implementation of the monitoring system based on the human resources of the wider region.
- To know the basic principles of environmental ethics in ecotourism and the basic rules of browsing, safety, hygiene and respect for the natural environment and protected objects.
- Know and be able to teach others how to read maps, orient the visitor in the countryside, use GPS and wayfinding devices.
- To become familiar with examples from the current situation in the Greek and international ecotourism market (case studies).

#### General Skills

### (3) COURSE CONTENT

In the theoretical part of the course, the student is taught and learns about the following material:

- Introduction to alternative forms of tourism. Definitions of tourism, sustainable tourism, alternative forms of tourism, ecotourism. "Ecotourist" profile. National legislation on tourism and alternative forms of tourism. Examples of areas with a developed ecotourism economic sector (briefly).
- Connecting biodiversity and natural environment management with ecotourism. Basic facts about protected areas. Natural environment management. Environmental interpretation. How the above can support and fuel ecotourism activities.
- Comparative "ecotourism" advantages of a region. History and human activities. Abiotic and biotic environment (eg landscapes, geology, wildlife). Identification of the most important local advantages (people, historical events, traditional activities, personal stories, etc.).
- Ecotourism and necessary infrastructure. What is and what is not ecotourism. Categories of ecotourism activities. Necessary infrastructures to support ecotourism activities. Construction types.
- Examples – Applications of ecotourism – Ethics. Examples of successful and unsuccessful applications of ecotourism actions. Basic rules of ethics and respect for local communities and the natural environment. The "bet" of ecotourism in the protected areas of Greece.
- Agritourism. The components and objectives of agritourism. Agritourism abroad and in Greece. What form of tourism does the modern Greek choose?
- Management principles of ecotourism businesses. Issues of basic training of business managers and personnel. Connecting ecotourism businesses with local administrative and production bodies. Ecological footprint. Service – customer guidance.
- Carrying capacity of an area. Definition of bearing capacity. Methods of estimating bearing capacity. Plan for ecotourism utilization of the area.
- Effects/impacts of tourism and ecotourism. Effects on the economy (economic figures). Effects on local communities. Effects of mass tourism on the environment and the need for new infrastructure. Are there "ecotourism impacts" on the natural environment? System for recording the effects and impacts of tourism and ecotourism.
- Policy and Governance: Interest Group Management. Mass tourism vs ecotourism. Who are the 'players' in the tourism of an area (at local and wider level)? How is the participation of ecotourism businesses in the tourism market of a region ensured?
- Designing sustainable ecotourism packages: the experience of the EUROPARC organization. Communication: what stories will we tell the customers of each sustainable destination? Training for tomorrow: protected area staff and local businesses. Businesses and tourism agents: creating sustainable and efficient packages. Visitors – ecotourists: tools for monitoring and planning flows and activities.
- Safety when participating in ecotourism activities. Individual responsibility and basic knowledge of the "customer". Security issues ensured by the person in charge - the organizer of the actions. Practical topics (map reading, positioning, orientation, devices, geodetic reference systems, etc.).
- Presentations of final course assignments.

For the practical training of the students in matters related to the subject of the course, a total of three assignments will be prepared (the first two individual assignments or in groups of 2-3 people), while the final assignment (3rd) will be individual and the student will be asked to present publicly and orally at the end of the PMS semester. The final paper is delivered in printed and electronic format, and its presentation lasts 15' and is followed by questions for 5-10' from the students present. The teacher, if necessary, intervenes for commentary, observations and corrections.

Students are graded for the overall performance of their final paper (a) by 70% on the content and editorial specifications and (b) by 30% on the preparation of the electronic presentation and its oral support. These grades count for a total of 40% of the overall grade that the students will receive after the final written examination of the theory.

#### (4) TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS - EVALUATION

<b>COURSE DELIVERY METHOD</b>	In class and remotely	
<b>USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of PCs, ppt slides, projector, video projector, projection of short videos</li> <li>• Learning process support through the e-class electronic platform</li> <li>• Eight (8) PCs in the Laboratory for postgraduate students to practice</li> <li>• Interactive Whiteboard</li> </ul>	
<b>MANAGEMENT OF TEACHING</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Semester Workload</b>
	Lectures	26
	Three (3) assignments related to the subject of the course	54
	Independent Study	70
	<b>Course Total (25 workload hours per credit unit)</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>STUDENT EVALUATION</b>	<p>I. The written final exam (60%) includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short answer questions from all the material taught (lectures, other material and book)</li> <li>• Multiple choice questions (with a negative marking factor)</li> <li>• True-False questions (with a negative scoring factor)</li> <li>• Short answer questions on a text that (possibly) will be given for study and editing during the examination</li> </ul> <p>II. Successful delivery of three (3) assignments and presentation of the individual final (3rd) assignment (40%).</p>	

#### (5) RECOMMENDED-BIBLIOGRAPHY

##### *Suggested Bibliography:*

- Bell S. 2008. *Design for outdoor recreation. Second edition. Taylor and Francis. New York. 241pp.*
- Buckley R. (ed.). 2004. *Environmental Impacts of Ecotourism. CABI Publishing, Manchester, 403pp. ISBN 0-85199-810-0.*
- Fennell D. 1999. *Ecotourism: an introduction. First edition. Routledge, London and New York, 335. ISBN 0-415-20168-3.*
- Fennell D. 2005. *Ecotourism: an introduction. Second edition. Routledge, London and New York, 247pp. ISBN 0-415-20168-3.*
- Fennell D. 2007. *Ecotourism. Third edition. Routledge, London and New York, 303pp. ISBN 0-203-93958-1.*
- Inskeep E. 1991. *Tourism Planning. An Integrated and Sustainable Development Approach. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold.*
- World Tourism Organization. 1983. *Risks of saturation or Tourist Carrying Capacity Overload in Holiday Destinations. Madrid: Σελίδα 4 World Tourism Organization.*
- Ανδριώτης Κ. 2008. *Αειφορία και Εναλλακτικός Τουρισμός. Εκδόσεις Σταμούλη, Αθήνα, 338 σελ.*
- Αποστολόπουλος Κ.Δ. και Δ. Σδράλη. 2016. *Εναλλακτικός και Ήπιος Τουρισμός Υπαίθρου. Εκδόσεις Δ.Β. ΕΛΛΗΝΟΕΚΔΟΤΙΚΗ Α.Ε.Ε.Ε. ISBN: 978-960-8458-16-1.*
- Ελευθεριάδης Ν. 2003. *Δασική Αναψυχή και Περιήγηση (Τουρισμός). Εκδόσεις ΧΑΡΙΣ Ε.Π.Ε., Θεσσαλονίκη.*
- Λυριτζής Γ. και Αλμπάνης (2009). *Αξιοποίηση εκτάσεων δασικού χαρακτήρα με έμφαση στον οικοτουρισμό και τον αγροτουρισμό. ΕΘΙΑΓΕ (εκδ. ΕΘΙΑΓΕ), τεύχος 37, σελ. 16-19.*
- Σωτηρόπουλος Ι. 2013. *Αγροτουρισμός – Οικοτουρισμός και Βιολογική Αιγοπροβατοτροφία Καινοτομία, Επιστήμη και Παραγωγή. Εκδόσεις Ίων – Έλλην, σελ. 296.*
- Τσούνης Γ. 2006. *Οικοτουρισμός. Εκδόσεις Explorer, Αθήνα, σελ. 311.*

- *Related scientific journals:*

- Journal of Ecotourism
- Journal of Tourism and Hospitality