

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM - FROM RHETORIC TO REAL PRACTICES WINTER 2023

GEOG 423

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CLASS SCHEDULE

Section	Location	Time	Instructor(s)
GEOG 423 001 [LEC]	HH 227	Mondays 2:30 p.m. - 5:20 p.m.	Sanjay Nepal snepal@uwaterloo.ca
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INSTRUCTOR / TA INFORMATION

Office Location - EV1-124

Office Hours - Thursday 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Calendar Description for GEOG 423

This course examines sustainability issues relevant to tourism. In particular, conceptual and practical examples related to economic, environmental, and social/cultural sustainability of tourism are critically appraised, combined with reviews of policy and institutional effects on sustainability practices. The course also focuses on best practices in sustainable tourism within government, non-government and business operations.

Prereq: GEOG 233 or 323

By the end of the course, participants should have gained a thorough understanding of the potential and pitfalls of sustainable tourism (ST) as relevant to global economic, environmental and socio-cultural practices. The end-goal is to critique current status and drivers (what, who, and how) of ST.

Specifically, the course has the following objectives:

Assess current sustainable tourism practices around the world;

1. Determine ST commonalities and salient distinctions across ST practices;
2. Gain a deeper understanding of ST as relevant to the 4Ps (People, Planet, Profit, Politics), with linkages to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This course will appraise critically the gaps in sustainability rhetoric and reality, with a focus on current practices of sustainability in the tourism sector. Students will develop a framework to assess sustainability, and evaluate whether or not existing practices reflect the framework parameters. A broad perspective is adopted involving economic,

environmental and socio-cultural sustainability. Examples will be taken from both the developed and developing world.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course students should be able to:

Critique, evaluate and articulate current sustainable tourism (ST) practices as examined through selected case studies
Develop research, synthesis and evaluation skills
Determine and critique sustainable tourism framework of assessment
Develop professional oral presentation, writing, and visual (graphics) skills

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Instruction Format
January 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and Rationale for “Out of the Box” approach to teaching and learning about ST. • Determine course objectives, learning outcomes, approaches to learning and assessment methods • Finalise course content, schedule, expectations 	Workshop format
Jan 16	Sustainable Tourism: A Critical Assessment (ST – State of the Art; End of Sustainable Tourism?)	Lecture
Jan 23	Developing a framework for ST assessment Review of current approaches	Lecture
Jan 30	Developing a framework for ST assessment Case study Criteria development	Workshop
February 6	Developing a framework for ST assessment Case study - Template development	Presentation Workshop

Feb 13	Selected Practices in sustainability Evaluating ST Practices I (Case Study 1)	Presentation Workshop
Feb 18-26	No Class! Reading Week	Research at your discretionary time
Feb 27	Selected Practices in sustainability Evaluating ST Practices II (Case Study 2)	Presentation Workshop
March 6	Selected Practices in sustainability Evaluating ST Practices III (Case Study 3)	Presentation Workshop
Mar 13	Selected Practices in sustainability Evaluating ST Practices IV (Case Study 4)	Presentation Workshop
Mar 20	ST assessment, synthesis compendium, first draft write up (as per template)	Workshop
Mar 27	ST assessment, synthesis compendium , second draft (as per template)	Workshop
April 3	“Looking backward in order to progress” – Reflections, Final Draft – Case Study Compendium with front and back matter; Collaborative Graduate Research Paper – First Draft (for grad students only)	Workshop
Apr 10	Poster Presentation in Class – Reflections and Discussion	

In-person lectures will be delivered on Mondays from 2:30 to 5:20 pm. Materials will be updated and posted on Learn prior to each lecture. This course requires collaborative work and beyond the classroom tasks. Students will be divided into 5 or 6 groups, with 4-5 students in each group. The pace is dependent on the group as a whole, so there is lot of commitment to group tasks, responsibilities, and intra and inter-group deadlines. It is advisable that decision to add/drop this course be made during the first two weeks of the Winter 2023 term.

TEXTS / MATERIALS

No materials required.

A list of suggested readings (four per week) will be posted on Learn. It is expected that participants will use all available resources (print, online) to develop case studies. If necessary, additional reference materials will be suggested throughout the course duration.

Also, look for newer articles in the *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Component	Value
In class presentation	30%
Workshop participation, discussion, contributions	20%
Case study write up	20%
Case study compendium report	20%

All assignments must be submitted via Dropbox on Learn:

[Homepage - GEOG 423/GEOG 638 - Winter 2023 \(uwaterloo.ca\)](https://learn.uwaterloo.ca/d2l/home/882995) (<https://learn.uwaterloo.ca/d2l/home/882995>)

Group Assignments:

The case studies presented in class are the responsibility of the Group, not the individual. As such the Group must work collaboratively and seek input/contribution from all members of the Group. Should a member not contribute his/her fair share, and should groups become dysfunctional, that needs to be brought to the attention of the instructor, at the earliest, for an amicable solution. The Group is responsible for making sure: 1) assignments are submitted on or before the due date; 2) contributions are made fairly and equitably 3) due diligence is taken in completing the background research, and in documenting the research process. The grade is given to the group, that is, all members of the group will get the same grade, hence it should be ensured all members of the team do their part. In case where there is a member not doing his/her part that needs to be resolved within the group and if that cannot be resolved, a signed letter/email needs to be sent to the instructor by the majority of the group detailing the situation, attempts made in resolving the situation, and suggestions for actions to be taken for resolving the matter. It may be helpful if the group establishes a specific communication channel for the purpose of this course.

Responsibility of the Individual:

As a member of the group, it is your responsibility to make sure you complete your part of the collaborative work. You are expected to complete your tasks on time, and in making sure the final submission is in correct order without errors. Every member of the group will get the same grade as the group, with the exception when a certain member of the group does not contribute fairly and significantly, in which case, the instructor must be notified collectively by at least two members (the majority) of the group. Members need to work on most of their tasks/assignments outside of classroom, so it is recommended that you take initiatives in organizing the group and assigning tasks and responsibilities. Each member will take turns in presenting case studies in class, and also in taking notes of the class discussion/feedback from peers and instructor. Failure to contribute meaningfully and diligently may result in poor grade for the group, but especially for the member who is not doing his/her part in making sure that a rigorous research process is applied in exploring case studies and in collecting, documenting, and writing up the case studies.

ASSIGNMENT SCREENING

Text matching software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin and alternatives in this course. See Administrative Policy below for more information and links.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

Territorial Acknowledgement: The University of Waterloo acknowledges that much of our work takes place on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our main campus is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, and community building, and is centralized within the [Office of Indigenous Relations](https://uwaterloo.ca/indigenous) (https://uwaterloo.ca/indigenous)

Intellectual Property: For further information on IP related to teaching, please see https://uwaterloo.ca/legal-and-immigration-services/sites/ca.legal-and-immigration-services/files/uploads/files/volume_1_issue_3_winter_2018.pdf (https://uwaterloo.ca/legal-and-immigration-services/sites/ca.legal-and-immigration-services/files/uploads/files/volume_1_issue_3_winter_2018.pdf) and the Guidelines for Faculty, Staff and Students Entering Relationships with External Organizations Offering Access to Course Materials, <https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/faculty-staff-and-students-entering-relationships-external> (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/faculty-staff-and-students-entering-relationships-external) . The following text is recommended:

Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of their instructor, TA, and/or the University of Waterloo. Intellectual property includes items such as:

- Lecture content, spoken and written (and any audio/video recording thereof);
- Lecture handouts, presentations, and other materials prepared for the course (e.g., PowerPoint slides);
- Questions or solution sets from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams); and
- Work protected by copyright (e.g., any work authored by the instructor or TA or used by the instructor or TA with permission of the copyright owner).

Course materials and the intellectual property contained therein, are used to enhance a student's educational experience. However, sharing this intellectual property without the intellectual property owner's permission is a violation of intellectual property rights. For this reason, it is necessary to ask the instructor, TA and/or the University of Waterloo for permission before uploading and sharing the intellectual property of others online (e.g., to an online repository).

Permission from an instructor, TA or the University is also necessary before sharing the intellectual property of others from completed courses with students taking the same/similar courses in subsequent terms/years. In many cases, instructors might be happy to allow distribution of certain materials. However, doing so without expressed permission is considered a violation of intellectual property rights.

Please alert the instructor if you become aware of intellectual property belonging to others (past or present) circulating, either through the student body or online. The intellectual property rights owner deserves to know (and may have already given their consent).

Research Ethics: The University of Waterloo requires all research conducted by its students, staff, and faculty which involves humans as participants to undergo prior ethics review and clearance through the Director, Office of Human Research and Animal Care (Office). The ethics review and clearance processes are intended to ensure that projects comply with the Office's Guidelines for Research with Human Participants (Guidelines) as well as those of provincial and federal agencies, and that the safety, rights and welfare of participants are adequately protected. The Guidelines inform researchers about ethical issues and procedures which are of concern when conducting research with humans (e.g. confidentiality, risks and benefits, informed consent process, etc.). If the development of your research proposal consists of research that involves humans as participants, the please contact the course instructor for guidance and see: <https://uwaterloo.ca/research/office-research-ethics> (https://uwaterloo.ca/research/office-research-ethics)

Anti-racism Statement: The University of Waterloo does not tolerate racism or any other form of discrimination and expects campus community members to contribute to a culture where all members feel safe and valued. Any member of the campus community who has experienced racism or discrimination at the University is encouraged to seek guidance from the Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Anti-racism (EDI-R) via email at equity@uwaterloo.ca (mailto:equity@uwaterloo.ca) or through their website: > [uwaterloo.ca/human-rights-equity-inclusion/ about/equity-office3](http://uwaterloo.ca/human-rights-equity-inclusion/about/equity-office3)

Declaring an absence: Regardless of the process used to declare an absence, instructors maintain agency over decisions regarding course component accommodations.

Self-declared absences (for flu-like illness, short-term 48 hour self declared absences) must be submitted through Quest.

Absences requiring documentation (e.g. Verification of Illness Form, bereavement, etc.) - send your documentation to env-vif@uwaterloo.ca. Do not send documentation to your advisor, course instructor, teaching assistant, or lab coordinator. Submission to env-vif@uwaterloo.ca () will notify all of your instructors of your absence. Students taking courses in Arts that require accommodation, should reach out to those instructors independently.

Mental Health: The University of Waterloo, the Faculty of Environment and our Departments/Schools consider students' well-being to be extremely important. We recognize that throughout the term students may face health challenges - physical and / or emotional. **Please note that help is available.** Mental health is a serious issue for everyone and can affect your ability to do your best work. Counselling Services <https://uwaterloo.ca/campus-wellness/> (<https://uwaterloo.ca/campus-wellness/>) is an inclusive, non-judgmental, and confidential space for anyone to seek support. They offer confidential counselling for a variety of areas including anxiety, stress management, depression, grief, substance use, sexuality, relationship issues, and much more.

All students are encouraged to download the WatSAFE app which is available free through the google and iOS app stores. The WatSAFE app provides on- and off-campus contacts for students in distress, including international students, and other information related to campus safety and security.

Religious Observances: Students need to inform the instructor at the beginning of term if special accommodation needs to be made for religious observances that are not otherwise accounted for in the scheduling of classes and assignments.

Communications with Instructor and Teaching Assistants: All communication with students must be through either the student's University of Waterloo email account or via LEARN. If a student emails the instructor or TA from a personal account they will be requested to resend the email using their personal University of Waterloo email account.

Recording lecture: Use of recording devices during lectures is only allowed with explicit permission of the instructor of the course. If allowed, video recordings may only include images of the instructor and not fellow classmates. Posting of videos or links to the video to any website, including but not limited to social media sites such as: facebook, twitter, etc., is strictly prohibited.

UNIVERSITY POLICY

Academic integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>) for more information.]

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4](#) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>) . When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. [Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](#) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>) for more information.] A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>) . For typical penalties, check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties>) .

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances](#) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>) (other than a petition) or [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals](#) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72>) .

Note for students with disabilities: [AccessAbility Services](#) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/disability-services/>) , located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin in this course.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit alternate assignment.