

## THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

### Course Outline

#### Part I

<b>Programme Title</b>	: All Undergraduate Programmes
<b>Programme QF Level</b>	: 5
<b>Course Title</b>	: Principles and Practice of Ecotourism
<b>Course Code</b>	: GGP3018
<b>Department</b>	: Social Sciences and Policy Studies
<b>Credit Points</b>	: 3
<b>Contact Hours</b>	: 39
<b>Pre-requisite(s)</b>	: Nil
<b>Medium of Instruction</b>	: English
<b>Course Level</b>	: 3

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#### Part II

The University's Graduate Attributes and seven Generic Intended Learning Outcomes (GILOs) represent the attributes of ideal EdUHK graduates and their expected qualities respectively. Learning outcomes work coherently at the University (GILOs), programme (Programme Intended Learning Outcomes) and course (Course Intended Learning Outcomes) levels to achieve the goal of nurturing students with important graduate attributes.

In gist, the Graduate Attributes for Sub-degree, Undergraduate, Taught Postgraduate, Professional Doctorate and Research Postgraduate students consist of the following three domains (i.e. in short "PEER & I"):

- Professional Excellence;
- Ethical Responsibility; &
- Innovation.

The descriptors under these three domains are different for the three groups of students in order to reflect the respective level of Graduate Attributes.

The seven GILOs are:

1. Problem Solving Skills
2. Critical Thinking Skills
3. Creative Thinking Skills
- 4a. Oral Communication Skills
- 4b. Written Communication Skills
5. Social Interaction Skills
6. Ethical Decision Making
7. Global Perspectives

## 1. Course Synopsis

Ecotourism has been regarded as an environmentally friendly mode of tourism since the past decades and it has been regarded as an important niche to help in achieving sustainability in the tourism industry. Countries endowed with rich natural resources actively develop and promote ecotourism. This course introduces the concepts and the principles of ecotourism. Various ecotourism practices of local and overseas countries will be examined to equip students with the fundamental knowledge of the tourism industry. This course is useful to students with different background in arts, education, social sciences, and science disciplines.

## 2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

*Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:*

- CILO<sub>1</sub>: demonstrate a high level of competence in understanding the concepts and principles of ecotourism
- CILO<sub>2</sub>: analyze the interactions between tourist activities and ecosystem
- CILO<sub>3</sub>: evaluate critically the positive and negative impacts of ecotourism
- CILO<sub>4</sub>: assess the importance of ecotourism for conservation and sustainable tourism development
- CILO<sub>5</sub>: summarize current patterns and future trends of ecotourism

## 3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
1. <b>Concepts and principles of ecotourism:</b> differences between nature-based tourism and ecotourism, definitions of ecotourism, basic principles of ecotourism, types of ecotourism activities	<i>CILO<sub>1,4</sub></i>	Lectures, lecturer-led Q&A, video
2. <b>Ecotourist:</b> motivation, attitude and behaviour of ecotourist, the ecotourist market	<i>CILO<sub>2,5</sub></i>	Lectures
3. <b>Impacts of ecotourism:</b> economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts, the importance of ecotourism for environmental conservation, ecotourism in protected areas, linking conservation with communities	<i>CILO<sub>3,4</sub></i>	Lectures, video, students' presentation, discussion
4. <b>Planning and management of ecotourism:</b> ecotourism policy and planning, ecotourism destination management (e.g., principles and practices), ecotourism certification	<i>CILO<sub>3,4,5</sub></i>	Lectures, discussion, Field trip
5. <b>Ecotourism case studies:</b> Animal watching, birdwatching, ecotourism in	<i>CILO<sub>3,4,5</sub></i>	Lectures, video, students' presentation, discussion

indigenous and special communities, etc.		
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#### 4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILO
(a) Field trip report (1000-1500 words) to identify prospects of ecotourism in Hong Kong	30%	CILO <sub>1,4</sub>
(b) Group presentation: students need to choose one type of ecotourism activity and discuss its impacts	30%	CILO <sub>1,4,5</sub>
(c) A 2-hour examination	40%	CILO <sub>1,2,3,4,5</sub>

#### 5. Required Texts

Fennell, D. A. (2020). *Ecotourism* (5th ed.). London; New York: Routledge.

Weaver, D. B. (2008). *Ecotourism* (2nd ed.). Milton, Qld: John Wiley & Sons Australia.

#### 6. Recommended Readings

Ballantyne, R., & Packer, J. (Eds.). (2013). *International Handbook on Ecotourism*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar.

Buckley, R. (Ed.). (2004). *Environmental Impacts of Ecotourism*. Wallingford, Oxon, UK; Cambridge, MA, USA: CABI.

Buckley, R., Cater, C., Zhong, L. and Chen, T. (2008) SHENGTAi LUYOU: Cross-cultural comparison in ecotourism. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 35(4): 945-968.

Buckley, R. (2009). *Ecotourism: Principles and Practices*. Wallingford, UK; Cambridge, MA: CABI.

Diamantis, D. (2004). *Ecotourism: Management and Assessment*. London: Thomson.

Fennell, D. A., & Dowling, R. K. (Eds.). (2003). *Ecotourism Policy and Planning*. Wallingford, Oxon, UK; Cambridge, MA: CABI.

Higham, J. (Ed.). (2007). *Critical Issues in Ecotourism: Understanding a Complex Tourism Phenomenon* (1st ed.). Amsterdam: Elsevier, Butterworth Heinemann.

Honey, M. (Ed.). (2002). *Ecotourism & Certification: Setting Standards in Practice*. Washington, DC: Island Press.

Page, S. J., & Dowling, R. K. (2002). *Ecotourism*. Harlow: Prentice Hall.

Schweinsberg, S. & Wearing, S. (2018) *Ecotourism: Transitioning to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). London: Taylor and Francis

Wearing, S., & Neil, J. (2009). *Ecotourism: Impacts, Potentials and Possibilities?* (2nd ed.). Amsterdam; Boston; London: Butterworth-Heinemann.

Weaver, D. B. (Ed.). (2000). *The Encyclopedia of Ecotourism*. Wallingford: CABI.

Zeppel, H. D. (2006). *Indigenous Ecotourism: Sustainable Development and Management*. Wallingford; Cambridge, Mass: CABI.

#### 7. Related Web Resources

The International Ecotourism Society

<http://www.ecotourism.org/>

## **8. Related Journals**

*International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology*

*Journal of Sustainable Tourism*

*Journal of Ecotourism*

*Tourism Management*

*Journal of Travel Research*

*Tourism Geographies*

## **9. Academic Honesty**

The University upholds the principles of honesty in all areas of academic work. We expect our students to carry out all academic activities honestly and in good faith. Please refer to the *Policy on Academic Honesty, Responsibility and Integrity* (<https://www.eduhk.hk/re/uploads/docs/00000000016336798924548BbN5>). Students should familiarize themselves with the Policy.

## **10. Others**

Newspaper articles, magazines and other on-line videos on relevant current issues will be used wherever and whenever necessary and feasible.

*Updated December 2023*