INSTRUCTOR:  Dr. Thomas Kuzmic

OFFICE & CONTACT INFO:  Office: 015 Agricultural Hall
Office Hours: After class, and afternoons on Tuesday through Friday; it is best to arrange an appointment in advance if possible.
Phone: 405-744-5463
E-mail: thomas.kuzmic@okstate.edu

TIME & PLACE:  Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 - 10:15am
014 Agricultural Hall

COURSE DESCRIPTION:  This course presents an overview and analysis of principles, applications management approaches, case-studies and issues associated with ecotourism and wilderness use for a diversity of values and benefits. Historical, social, cultural, economic, political, and ecological foundations are examined, and current issues of ecotourism and wilderness use and management are reviewed. (Offered in even Falls; alternates with NREM 4053 which is offered in odd Falls.)

OBJECTIVES:  Students will be able to effectively express their understanding of:
• the evolution of ecotourism and its role and importance for people across multiple perspectives;
• the distinction of ecotourism from other forms of tourism, and how to recognize and assess sustainable ecotourism programs, developments, and enterprises;
• philosophical and historical development of wilderness ideology, policy and management in the USA;
• social, cultural, economic, policy, and ecological dimensions associated with ecotourism and wilderness management;
• the diversity of ecotourism and wilderness recreation resources, agencies/organizations, and experience opportunities in the USA and around the world;
• the role and importance of establishing an ethical foundation and standards for managing ecotourism and wilderness resources and opportunities for people;
• current trends and issues in ecotourism and wilderness management.

COURSE FORMAT:  Lectures and class discussions complemented by PowerPoint slides and homework assignments will comprise the course. All PowerPoints and course materials will be posted on D2L. Students are expected to attend class regularly and to take good notes for the optimal learning experience.

TOPIC OUTLINE:  A tentative outline of course topics and activities is attached. The first third of the semester will focus on ecotourism, and the remaining two-thirds will concentrate on wilderness.


GRADING: Performance in the course will be evaluated on the following basis:

3 Exams (100 points each) = 300 points
Homework = 200 points
TOTAL POSSIBLE = 500 points

A = 450 - 500 points (90-100%)
B = 400 - 449 points (80-89%)
C = 350 - 399 points (70-79%)
D = 300 - 349 points (60-69%)
F = below 300 points (0-59%)

Exams are scheduled for the following dates:
- Tuesday, September 3 (Week #5 at regular class time)
- Thursday, October 20 (week #11 at regular class time)
- Tuesday, December 6 (Final Exam Week at 8:00-9:50am)

The exams will not be comprehensive, except in the case of recurring themes that transcend the course. Each exam will stress the material covered during the class sessions since the preceding exam. Several homeworks will be assigned, involving a combination of creative projects, internet investigations, and policy reviews.

Failure to take an exam or submit an assignment on the scheduled date will result in a "zero" grade for that exam or assignment. Students who anticipate or experience a credible difficulty with meeting a deadline should discuss their situation with the instructor during office hours, preferably before the scheduled exam date or homework deadline. Under all circumstances, you are responsible for all missed material as presented in the PowerPoints in class and which will be available on D2L, and also from assigned readings in the textbooks. There will be no make-up classes, reviews, or exams given. Of course, you may come by to ask questions about missed material after reviewing the PowerPoints.

OSU POLICY: We will adhere to the standard University policy and schedule for dropping or withdrawing from class and for academic integrity as printed in the University catalogue, the official OSU Syllabus Attachment (which is attached), and posted on the OSU SIS website.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: I am committed to upholding the Academic Integrity Policy of Oklahoma State University and you should be as well. I expect all students to align with the standards of academic integrity and ethical conduct as delineated in University Academic Regulation 6.12 in the OSU catalog and as presented at www.academicintegrity.okstate.edu on the OSU website. Behavior that violates the OSU academic integrity policy will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary action.
ECOTOURISM  (All readings noted in parentheses from Honey, 2008)

I.  Ecotourism Foundations, Definitions & Principles (Chapter 1)
   A.  What it is, and what it isn't
   B.  Seven Characteristics of Sustainable Ecotourism
   C.  The Role, Significance and Dilemma of Modern Mass Tourism
   D.  Emergence of Ecotourism

II.  Global Travel & Tourism Industry (Chapter 2)
   A.  The Major Players: Airlines, Hotel Conglomerates, Cruise Ships, Travel Agents & Tour Operators
   B.  Green or Green-washed? Ecotourism or Ecotourism Lite?

III.  Hallmarks of Ecotourism (Chapter 3 & pp. 443-447)
   A.  Successful Ecotourism Providers
   B.  Role & Function of Non-Profit and Non-Government Organizations
   C.  Challenges, Contradictions & Potential Pitfalls
   D.  Traveler's Philanthropy & Responsible Travel

IV.  Ecotourism Case-Studies
   A.  South America: the Galapagos Islands (Chapter 4)
   B.  Central America: Costa Rica (Chapter 5)
   C.  Africa: Tanzania (Chapter 6)

WILDERNESS  (All readings noted in parentheses from Dawson & Hendee, 2009)

I.  Wilderness Ideology and Policy in the USA
   A.  Defining Wilderness, Conceptualizing the Wilderness Condition, and Establishing a Philosophical Foundation for Wilderness (Chapter 1)
   B.  Historical and Cultural Roots of Wilderness Ideology and Management (Chapter 2)
   C.  Early Wilderness Policy and the Wilderness Act of 1964 (Chapter 4 & Appendix A)
   D.  The Wilderness Designation Process and Wilderness Legislation (Chapter 5 & Appendix B)

II.  The National Wilderness Preservation System (Chapter 6)
   A.  Structure and distribution of designated wilderness resources
   B.  Federal Agencies Involved in Wilderness Administration & Management

III.  Principles and Frameworks for Wilderness Management
   A.  The 13 Principles of Wilderness Management (Chapter 7)
   B.  Management Planning Frameworks of the Federal Agencies (Chapter 8)
   C.  Managing for Wilderness Condition: The Limits of Acceptable Change Process (Chapter 9)
   D.  The Wilderness Ecosystem & the Pristine Myth (Chapter 10)
E. Fire in Wilderness Ecosystems (Chapter 11)
F. Wildlife in Wilderness Ecosystems (Chapter 12)
G. Threats to Wilderness Ecosystems (Chapter 13)

IV. Management of Wilderness Visitation & Use-Impact
A. Wilderness Use, Use Trends, and Management of Use (Chapter 14)
B. Wilderness Use Impact and Impact Management (Chapter 15)
C. Managing Wilderness Recreational Use for Quality Experiences (Chapter 16)

V. Challenges Facing Wilderness Stewardship in the Future (Chapter 17)