

GEOG3302 Principles and Practice of Ecotourism (6 credits)

Course Teacher: Dr Y P Li

Objectives

It leads students to examine the delicate interactions between tourism and the ecosystem by studying global ecotourism cases.

Course Synopsis

This course will lead students to explore the history, concepts, principles and practice of ecotourism and development which promote cultural and environmental awareness and local economic benefits with an emphasis on non-western cultures. The material covered is intended to offer students basic knowledge of this sector of the tourism industry, enable them to define, describe and analyze the principles and practices of eco-tourism, and help them to appreciate the complex nature of eco-tourism development in the contemporary world.

Lecture Topics

- Eco-tourism: Basic concepts and principles
- Landscapes of Hong Kong: Ecotourism in local perspectives
- Ecotourism environments
- Structure of ecotourism industry
- Prospects of ecotourism development in China and Hong Kong
- Current patterns and future trends of ecotourism

Assessment

Coursework 100% (consists of field study project and assignments).

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge:

- Understanding of the basic principles and practices of eco-tourism
- Appreciation of the delicate interactions between the tourist activities and the ecosystem
- Analysis of prospects for ecotourism development in Hong Kong

Skills:

- Practical application of basic concepts and theories
- Analytical capability for a specific case study
- Awareness about the importance of sustainable development.

Recommended Reading List

1. Weaver, D. (2008) Ecotourism. Milton, Qld. Australia: John Wiley & Sons (ISBN: 0470813040)
2. The International Ecotourism Society Website: <http://www.ecotourism.org>