

## COURSE OUTLINE

### 1. GENERAL

<b>SCHOOL</b>	School of Technology		
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	Department of Forestry, Wood Sciences and Design		
<b>LEVEL</b>	<i>Undergraduate</i>		
<b>CODE</b>	KM321	<b>STUDENT SEMESTER</b>	3rd
<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	Ecotourism – Forest Recreation		
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>WEEKLY HRS</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
	Lectures and Workshops	3	5
<b>TYPE OF COURSE</b>	Generic knowledge and Skills Development		
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	None		
<b>LANGUAGE TEACHING AND EXAMINATION:</b>	Greek or English		
<b>THE COURSE IS OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS</b>			
<b>WEBPAGES COURSE (URL)</b>	<a href="https://eclass.uth.gr/courses/ECON_U_137/">https://eclass.uth.gr/courses/ECON_U_137/</a>		

### 2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

#### Learning Outcomes

The aim of the course is to highlight ecotourism as a special category of sustainable tourism with great prospects for the rural economy of Greece, in protected and non-protected areas. Upon successful completion of the course the student will have the necessary background on the ecotourism potential of using the natural environment and will be able to:

- distinguish the natural environment values for human recreation and the possibilities it offers for practicing environmental-friendly activities and environmental interpretation activities,
- identify and describe the characteristics of ecotourism and forest recreation according to the background of the area exploited at any given circumstance and to distinguish the financial prospects of relevant investments,
- select the appropriate places for the installation of ecotourism activities and infrastructure, such as visitor information centers or stations, drawing paths and placing information signs with appropriate and up-to-date content,
- recognize the potential for the ecotourism (and sometimes agro-tourism) development of an area and to set the principles for the determination of the carrying capacity of the area and the elaboration of an ecotourism development plan,
- recognize the social, economic and ecological effects and impacts of tourism and especially ecotourism and forest recreation activities,
- determine the framework for the development of a tourism impact monitoring system in an area,
- present to the manager of an ecotourism business the basic principles of sustainable utilization of the natural environment and management of the business itself,
- know the basic principles of ethics in ecotourism and forest recreation and the basic rules of navigation, trailing, safety, hygiene and respect for the natural environment and protected wildlife species and habitats,
- know how to read maps, orient the visitor in the countryside, use positioning and route

- determination devices,
- know examples from the current situation in the Greek and international ecotourism market (case studies).

### General Skills

Upon successful completion of the course, the students will be able to develop and cultivate basic professional and social skills:

- Search, analysis and synthesis of data and information, using the necessary technologies
- Adaptation to new situations
- Adaptation from the general to the special/specific framework
- Decision making
- Autonomous work
- Teamwork
- Work in an interdisciplinary environment
- Demonstration of social, professional and moral responsibility and sensitivity to gender issues
- Respect for the natural environment
- Promoting free, creative and inductive thinking
- Respect for diversity and multiculturalism
- Ability to recognize and evaluate business and innovative "opportunities",
- Production of new ideas

### 3. COURSE CONTENT

The course includes a main theoretical part, from which the student learns about the following:

- Distinguishing ecotourism and forest recreation from other forms of tourism (conceptual approach, basic definitions, legislation).
- Key elements for protected areas, their management organizations, sustainable development, the values and functions of the natural environment for recreation, and the concept of environmental interpretation.
- Recognition of the special features of an area for the organization of ecotourism activities (landscapes, flora, fauna, vegetation, geology, special formations, history, infrastructure, accessibility, etc.).
- Categories of ecotourism activities and infrastructure and specifications for the selection of suitable locations for their installation - Basic technical projects and constructions.
- Identification of the potential of an area for its ecotourism development - Comparative advantages and limitations - Relevant research methodologies.
- Carrying capacity of a site - Elaboration of an ecotourism development plan.
- Identification and selection of a monitoring system on the effects and impacts of tourism and ecotourism on the local community, economy and natural environment.
- Basic principles of ethics in ecotourism and forest recreation, as well as the management of relevant businesses.
- Basic rules of navigation, safety and hygiene, and protection of protected species and habitat types.
- Basic knowledge of reading and understanding maps, orientation and use of geographic positioning devices (GPS).
- Typical examples of ecotourism activities in Greece and worldwide through the presentation of many case studies, such as of ecotourism in the Galapagos, gorilla-tourism in Central Africa, ecotourism in Australia and Antarctica.

Rich course material will be available in the e-class, while, in addition to lectures, a field trip will take place and students will have the chance to vividly experience eco-touristic activities. This outdoors activity may be combined with subjects of other courses, such as the Management of Protected Areas. Course lectures will also be supported by optional workshops, where each team of students will present their findings about a specific case study of ecotourism activity from various destinations worldwide.

#### 4. TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS - EVALUATION

<b>DELIVERY METHOD</b>	<p>Combined application of educational methods and techniques in order to enhance the active participation of students in the course and attain the greatest possible effectiveness in "face to face" teaching:</p> <p>(a) Presentations (in the amphitheater) enriched with real examples (case studies presented in the lectures or through videos), questions - answers and discussion.</p> <p>(b) Participation to an excursion and optional workshops where students get acquainted with methods and tools of creative thinking and analysis taking into account knowledge obtained from other, parallel or previous, courses such as Botany and Wildlife Biology.</p>	
<b>USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES</b>	<p>Use of a course website on the e-class platform for posting (a) lecture material, (b) notes and internet links, (c) announcements and search tools.</p>	
<b>MANAGEMENT OF TEACHING</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Semester Workload</b>
	Lectures	60
	Excursion	5
	Workshops	10
	Individual and work study for term assignment	50
	<b>Course Total</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>STUDENT EVALUATION</b>	<p>Student assessment takes place at the end of the semester by means of written examination which include questions requiring:</p> <p>(a) short answers (right/wrong, multiple choice, short phrase) based on the educational material of the course (uploaded in the e-class platform), and</p> <p>(b) answers based on the participation to the excursion or the optional workshops.</p>	

#### 5. RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books offered to students through the *Eudoxus* platform:

- Eleftheriadis N. 2003. Forest Recreation and Touring (Tourism). CHARIS Publications, Thessaloniki (Eudoxus code: 6640, *in Greek*).
- Andriotis K. 2008. Sustainability and Alternative Tourism. Stamoulis Editions, Athens (Eudoxus code: 22609, *in Greek*).
- Apostolopoulos, K.D. and D. Sdrali. 2016. Alternative and Mild Outdoor Tourism. Ellinoekdotiki S.A. Editions. ISBN: 978-960-8458-16-1 (Eudoxus code: 59371701, *in Greek*).

Books offered besides the *Eudoxus* platform:

- Tsounis, G. 2006. Ecotourism. Explorer Editions, Athens, 311 pp.
- Bell S. 2001. Design for Outdoor Recreation. Spon Press, London, 217 pp.
- Buckley, R. (ed.). 2004. Environmental Impacts of Ecotourism. CABI Publishing, Manchester, 403 pp. ISBN 0-85199-810-0.
- Fennell, D. 2005. Ecotourism: an introduction. Second edition. Routledge, London and New York, 247 pp. ISBN 0-415-20168-3.
- Fennell, D. 2007. Ecotourism. Third edition. Routledge, London and New York, 303 pp. ISBN 0-203-93958-1.

