INTRODUCTION
The course analyzes the main trends of sustainable tourism and local development. It looks at the nature-based activities involving education and understanding of the natural environment. The course will focus on the relationship of this activity to local communities, managed so as to be ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable. The course is enriched by Costa Rica’s experience in tourism and ecotourism, as well as other Latin American case studies.

OBJECTIVES
1. To provide the student with the details to analyze the relationship between Tourism and Eco, Agro tourism.
2. To develop an understanding of Latin America’s Ecotourism experience.
3. To offer the student the knowledge related to the main impacts of ecotourism in development.
4. To understand the key points present in what is considered to be a real ecotourism projects and the responsibilities derived from the concept.

METHODOLOGY
Active student participation is encouraged all throughout the course and different methodologies will be used to promote discussion.

- Teacher presentations
- Group discussions
- Individual presentations
- Debates
- “Brain storming”

EVALUATION
- Midterm (25%)
- Final examination (25%)
- Homeworks & Participation (20%)
- Final paper (15%)
- Final presentation (15%)
## COURSE CONTENTS

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## ACTIVITIES IN CLASS & FIELD TRIPS:

The course includes the following activities: lectures in class to explain concepts; guided discussions in class; field lectures; field discussions; educational tours/field trips.

During lectures and guided discussions, full participation is very important for the educational development. Readings will be assigned to promote the participation of the students. During the field lectures, field discussions, and educational tours, students are responsible to take notes and participate as well.
ICDS Academic Policy

**Special Needs:** In case of requiring additional time for taking exams, or if experiencing any circumstance during the course of the term that would interfere with the student’s ability to complete his/her work or take a test, students should let the professor know ahead of time.

**Changes to Syllabus**
The student acknowledges receipt of this syllabus and the information herein by continuing to attend this course. The Instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus if circumstances warrant such change, with previous approval of ICDS’ Academic Director. All major changes will be provided to the student in writing.

**Academic Integrity**

Students in this course are expected to abide by common sense, normal regulations on Academic Integrity. Violations of the Academic Integrity policy include, but are not limited to plagiarism, fabrication, cheating, and academic misconduct, including dishonest acts such as tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of an administered or unadministered test/assignment. The intent to violate this policy also represents a violation of this policy.

**Possible Sanctions for Violating Academic Integrity Policy**

If an act of academic dishonesty is determined to have occurred, one or more of the following sanctions will be imposed, depending on the severity of a first-time offense:

- Reduction of a course grade
- An “F” for the assignment or exam
- Failure for the entire course
- Other action deemed appropriate by the faculty member
- Any of the above sanctions with the inability to withdraw.

The decision about the sanction to apply will be made jointly by the course’s professor and ICDS’ Academic Director, in consultation with home university on-site Director for the program, if applicable. The incident will be reported to the home university and may result in an official conduct record for the student(s).

**Second violation:** A second violation will result in suspension or expulsion from the program, in addition to any sanction issued from the list above.
BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

Week 1 Impacts: Economics of Tourism

Week 2 Impacts: Growth and development
Kreag, G. The Impacts of Tourism. Minnesota Sea Grant, University of Minnesota. 2007

Week 3 Impacts: Negative externalities

Week 4 Community Role in Tourism

Week 5 UN, Tourism, Conservation Ethics and Poverty
UN. Agenda 21

Week 6. Tourism, National Parks and potential for Conservation
Week 7. Sustainable Tourism Segments: agro, eco, enviro, community tourism

Week 8 Poverty Issues and Sustainable Tourism

WWF. Guidelines for community-based ecotourism development. WWF International July 2001

Week 10 Conflict resolution in Sustainable Tourism

Week 11. Prices and Services effect in Sustainable Tourism: Certifications effects

Week 12, 13, 14 It is possible Sustainable Tourism: How and where?
Eagles, P. et all Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas: Guidelines for Planning and Management. IUCN Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. xv + 183pp. 2002