Module Descriptor

Title	Critical Concepts in Tourism		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	**Approved**
Code	TOUR11014	**SCQF Level**	11
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Module Co-ordinator	Kalyan Bhandari		
Summary of Module This module provides an overview of key critical concepts in tourism and examines their usefulness in understanding the consumption of tourism. The module encourages students' critical thinking on tourism's relationship to image, identity and authenticity; environment, conservation and development; mobilities, consumerism and ethics; and experience economy and technology. It makes strong reference to various international case studies relating to these conceptual issues and their implications in the international tourism policy agendas.			

Module Delivery Method	**On-Campus[1]** ☒	**Hybrid[2]** ☒	**Online[3]** ☐	**Work -Based Learning[4]** ☐
Campuses for Module Delivery	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☒ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)	

Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	☐	Term 2	☒	Term 3	☐
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

[1] Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[2] The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[3] Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[4] Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Identify and critically evaluate critical concepts in tourism.
L2	Use appropriate conceptual strands to explain/interpret various socio- cultural phenomenon relating to tourism.
L3	Apply the understanding of these concepts in policy, planning and designing of national and international tourism development programmes.
L4	
L5	

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	**During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:**
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	**SCQF 11** Demonstrate a critical understanding of the principal theories, principles and concepts relating to Tourism Studies.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 11** Use a range of specialised skills, techniques and practices which are at the forefront of contemporary tourism industry.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 11** Identify, conceptualise and define new and abstract problems and issues pertaining to the consumption of tourism and be able to develop original and creative responses to these problems and issues.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 11** Collect, interpret and report complex data pertaining to the tourism industry and use a range of advanced and specialised skills as appropriate to communicate them to a range of audiences with different levels of knowledge/expertise.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 11** Take responsibility for ones' own work and demonstrate leadership in making an identifiable contribution to the field of tourism policy making.

Prerequisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**
	Other	
Co-requisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**

Learning and Teaching
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours.

Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	**Student Learning Hours** (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	12
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	24
Asynchronous Class Activity	38
Independent Study	126
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources

The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:

Hall C.M., Lundmark, L. and Zhang, J. J. 2020. Degrowth and Tourism New Perspectives on Tourism Entrepreneurship, Destinations and Policy. London: Routledge.

Lew, A. A., Cheer, J.M., Brouder, P. and Mostafanezhad, M. 2022. Global Tourism and COVID-19: Implications for Theory and Practice. London: Routledge.

Jamal, T. and Robinson, M. 2009. The SAGE Handbook of Tourism Studies, London, Sage

Lovelock, B. and Lovelock, K. . 2013. The Ethics of Tourism: Critical and Applied Perspectives. Routledge: London.

Saarinen, J., and Rogerson, J.M. 2021. Tourism, Change and the Global South. London: Routledge.

Singh, T.V. 2012. Critical Debates in Tourism. Channel View Publications: Clevedon.

Urry, J. and Larsen, J. 2011. The Tourist Gaze 3.0. London: Sage

(N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements

In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:

Equality and Diversity

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code.

Students will be encouraged to think critically about a wide range of issues concerning tourism. They will be asked to assess, analyse and challenge the problems related to tourism and discuss how their own social and cultural circumstances and experiences have shaped their understanding of tourism subject area and the industry.
(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	**Marketing, Innovation, Tourism & Events**
Overall Assessment Results	☐ **Graded**
Module Eligible for Compensation	☐ **No** **If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.**
School Assessment Board	MITE
Moderator	Masood Khodadadi
External Examiner	A Miller
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Critical Paper (50%)
Assessment 2
Individual Report (50%)
Assessment 3
(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed. (ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Critical Paper	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	50%	

Component 2

Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
Report	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	50%	

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	hours

Change Control

What	When	Who