**THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**

**Course Outline**

**Part I**

**Programme Title :** All Full-time Undergraduate Programmes

**Programme QF Level :** 5

**Course Title :** Conservation and Ecotourism

**Course Code :** CSL1013 & GEM1026

**Department/Unit :** Science and Environmental Studies

**Credit Points :** 3

**Contact Hours :** 39

**Pre-requisite(s) :** Nil

**Medium of Instruction :** EMI

**Course Level :** 1

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**Part II**

The University’s Graduate Attributes and seven Generic Intended Learning Outcomes (GILOs) represent the attributes of ideal EdUHK graduates and their expected qualities respectively. Learning outcomes work coherently at the University (GILOs), programme (Programme Intended Learning Outcomes) and course (Course Intended Learning Outcomes) levels to achieve the goal of nurturing students with important graduate attributes.

In gist, the Graduate Attributes for Undergraduate, Taught Postgraduate and Research Postgraduate students consist of the following three domains (i.e. in short “PEER & I”):

**1. P**rofessional **E**xcellence; **2. E**thical **R**esponsibility; **&**

**3. I**nnovation.

The descriptors under these three domains are different for the three groups of students in order to reflect the respective level of Graduate Attributes.

The seven GILOs are:

1. Problem Solving Skills
2. Critical Thinking Skills
3. Creative Thinking Skills

4a. Oral Communication Skills

4b. Written Communication Skills

1. Social Interaction Skills
2. Ethical Decision Making
3. Global Perspectives

# 1. Course Synopsis

The course provides a detailed description and analysis of ecotourism in the context of environmental conservation and sustainability. Its primary aim is to provide students with a basic understanding of the principles of ecological conservation as knowledge foundations. Authentic scenarios are provided to the students in learning the issues and acquiring the skills through the Service-Based Learning.

**2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes** (CILOs)

*Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:*

CILO1 describe the principles of environmental conservation, sustainability and ecotourism;

CILO2 apply the key concepts of environmental conservation to the sustainable development of ecotourism;

CILO3 critically analyze the benefits and challenges of ecotourism reviewed in the case study of existing ecotours;

CILO4 acquire skills on collaboration and team work; and, experience for planning, managing and guiding ecotours from authentic service-based learning opportunities;

 CILO5 demonstrate positive attitude towards the environmental sustainability and

the social responsibility through the genuine community participation in the ecotourism industry

# 3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

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| **Course Content**  | **CILOs**  | **Suggested** **Teaching &** **Learning** **Activities**  |
| Environmental Conservation and Strategies, Ecotourism and Environment * Scientific foundation and real-world practice of conservation biology
* Basic concepts and importance about environmental conservation and sustainable ecotourism.
* Interdisciplinary nature of conservation in practice, using case study approach
 | CILO1,2  | Lectures, case study and group discussion  |
| Biodiversity Conservation and Introductions of Exotic Species * Basic knowledge for identifying various conservation problems. (e.g. exotic species and its introductions).
* Historical and current trends relating to species endangerment and extinction;
 | CILO1,2,5  | Lectures, case study and field study  |
| Principles of Sustainable Development and Sustainable Tourism * Introduction of sustainable development and ecotourism
* Discussion about environmental impacts of ecotourism;
* Real-life case studies to illustrate the knowledge, practice and management of sustainable ecotourism.
 | CILO2,3,4,5  | Lectures, case study and group discussion  |
| Development of Ecotourism * Sustainable development in Hong Kong
* Public and private sectors
* Ecotourism in the world
 | CILO2,3,4  | Lecture, web surfing, literature reviews and group discussion  |
| Ecotourism in Theory * Ecotourism site and activity design in relation to Conservation
* Environmental interpretation for the general public
* Environmental teaching approach
* Outdoor education management
 | CILO1,2,3,4  | Lectures, group discussion and group presentation to evaluate an existing tour.  |
| Ecotourism in Practice * Planning and organizing an eco-tour with the consideration of appropriate site conservation and development.
* Provide tour-guiding service to the public visitors (e.g. primary, secondary or tertiary students) in the planned ecotour under the supervision of course lecturers or other collaborative community partners (e.g. schools and non-government organization NGO).
 | CILO1,2, 3,4,5  | Lectures, group discussion and planning, servicebased field visit and individual tour guiding, (e.g. woodland/ shrub land/ grassland/ mangrove / rocky shore/ sandy shore/ freshwater habitat)  |

# 4. Assessment

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| **Assessment Tasks**  | **Weighting (%)**  | **CILO**  |
| A. Individual reflection - Self-evaluation of the students for their course performance, improvement on environmental awareness and limitation in implementation of the planning for ecotour or conservation work.  | 10%  | CILO1, 2, 3, 4 & 5  |
| B. Individual assessment on *in situ* presentation and generic skills in a service-providing field tour/conservation work Each student involves in a part of the service, guiding the field tour/performing conservation work, and introducing the ecological or cultural information of a field site e.g. ecosystem, natural or cultural heritage backgrounds etc.  | 40%  | CILO1, 2, 3, 4 & 5  |
| C. Group Project * Presentation (10%)

Each group presents in the class a case study of an existing ecotour. The presentation should critically evaluate the ecotours in terms of environmental conservation, sustainability, safety concern and effectiveness of implementation. * Written proposal (40%) (Word limits: 3,000) Each group submits a written proposal of a field tour activity (e.g. one hour). The plan should include the objectives and planning of the natural trail, benefits and challenges, safety consideration, limitations and remediation etc.
 | 50%  | CILO1, 2, 3 & 4 |

**5. Required Text(s)**

Nil

# 6. Recommended Readings

Büscher, B. & Davidov, V. (2013) Rural Livelihoods and the Ecotourism/Extraction Nexus. New York, USA: Routledge

Hill, J.L., & Gale, T. (2009) Ecotourism *and environmental sustainability: principles and practice.* Farnham, UK: Ashgate Publishing

Lovejoy, T.E., & Hannah, L. (2005) *Climate Change and Biodiversity*. New Haven, USA: Yale University Press.

Wearing, S., & Neil, J. (1999) *Ecotourism: impacts, potentials and possibilities.* Boston, USA: Butterworth-Heinemann

Duffy, R. (2002). *A Trip too Far: Ecotourism, Politics and Exploitation*. Oxford, UK: Earthscan.

Dyke, F.V. (2008). *Conservation Biology: Foundations, Concepts, Applications.(2nd ed.).* *Dordrecht,* Netherland: Springer

Fennel, D.A. (2007). Ecotourism (3rd ed.). New York, USA: Routledge.

Higham, J. (2007). *Critical Issues in Ecotourism*. New York, USA: Routledge Honey, M. (2008). *Ecotourism and Sustainable Development: Who Owns Paradise?* (2nd ed.) Washington DC, USA: Island Press.

Hunter Jr. M.L., Gibbs, J.P. (2006). Fundamentals of Conservation Biology (3rd ed.). Oxford, UK: Wiley-Blackwell.

Lim, P. (2002). *Discovering Hong Kong's Cultural Heritage: Hong Kong and Kowloon.* New York, USA: Oxford University Press.

Lim, P. (2002). *Discovering Hong Kong's Cultural Heritage: The New Territories (revised ed.).* New York, USA: Oxford University Press.

Primack, R.B. (2010). *Essentials of Conservation Biology (5th ed.)*. Sunderland, USA: Sinauer Associates

Seba, J. (2011). Ecotourism and Sustainable Tourism: New Perspectives and Studies. Waretown, USA: Apple Academic Press.

Sharpley, R. (2009). *Tourism Development and the Environment: Beyond Sustainability? (Tourism Environment and Development)*. New York, USA: Earthscan

Sigala, M., Leslie, D. (2005). *International Cultural Tourism: Management, Implications and Cases*. Oxford, UK: Taylor & Francis

Wearing, S., Neil, J. (2009). Ecotourism (2nd ed.). New York, USA: Routledge

Weaver, D. (2008). *Ecotourism (2nd ed.).* Oxford, UK: Wiley.

# 7. Related Web Resources

Biodiversity and Conservation (Publisher: Springer)

Biological Conservation (Publisher: Elsevier)

Journal of Sustainable Tourism (Publisher: Taylor & Francis)

Tourism Management (Publisher: Elsevier)

1. **Related Journals**

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, HKSAR <http://www.afcd.gov.hk/>

Hong Kong Traveler <http://www.hktraveler.com/index__b5.html>

Magazine “Hong Kong Discovery” <http://platform.hkdiscovery.com/>

Eco-Education and Resources Centre (ERC) [https://www.facebook.com/pages/Eco-Education-and-Resources-CentreERC/422775527768538](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Eco-Education-and-Resources-Centre-ERC/422775527768538)

# 9. Academic Honesty

The University upholds the principles of honesty in all areas of academic work. We expect our students to carry out all academic activities honestly and in good faith. Please refer to the *Policy on Academic Honesty, Responsibility and Integrity* (<https://www.eduhk.hk/re/uploads/docs/000000000016336798924548BbN5>). Students should familiarize themselves with the Policy.

# 10. Others

Nil