

American Tourism, HISU 393-02, Spring 2001

This class considers the growing importance of tourism in American society and culture. We will cover subjects such as regional tourism, religious retreats, artist colonies, national parks, “living history” museums such as Williamsburg, reinvented urban places like Santa Fe, amusement parks from Coney Island to Disneyland, urban entertainment districts, and “pure” tourist cities like Las Vegas. Students can expect a mixture of slide lectures and discussion every class.

Excellent preparation for class discussion is essential to doing well in this class. There are very few class meetings so it should not be difficult to attend the few sessions we have. Readings are designed to be interesting and constitute the primary labor of students in the class. There may be a brief quiz at the beginning of class on the reading for each week and students will be asked to evaluate their class participation each class.

Two unexcused absences (lacking doctor’s note) will result in a maximum score of a B in the class. Every absence after this point will result in further reductions of 5 points in the final grade.

Books for the course are available at the bookstore and a packet is also available at Metro Copy on Calhoun Street. Bring all readings for each class with you for each class meeting.

All students are required to write a paper on a tourism theme of their choice. Examples of themes include gender, race, nationalism, class, nature, technology, advertising, planning, architecture, and so on (one theme per student, reserve early!). Students must integrate readings from at least 10 reading assignments in their papers. No outside research is required; in fact, I strongly discourage using anything but class readings and lectures for the project. A first draft is required for all papers and late papers will not be accepted for either the first or final drafts.

30% Class Participation
20% Midterm
20% Final
30% Paper

Required Readings:

Warren Belasco, *Americans on the Road*
Dona Brown, *Inventing New England*
Steven Fjellman, *Vinyl Leaves*
Judd and Fainstein, *The Tourist City*
John Hannigan, *Fantasy City*
Steven Hoelscher, *Heritage on stage*
Hal Rothman, *Devil’s Bargains*
Robert Rydell, *All the world’s A Fair*
John Sears, *Sacred Places*

Week 1, January 10

Introduction

Week 2, January 17

The Industrial Revolution and the First Discovery of Nature

John Sears, Sacred Places, 3-71/87-155/182-208

Hal Rothman, Devil's Bargains, 50-80

Week 3, January 24

A New Spirit for Travel: Mackinac Island, Wesleyan Grove, and Chautauqua

Dona Brown, Inventing New England, 15-40/75-134/169-199

Jeffrey Simpson, Chautauqua, An American Utopia, Selections (Reader)

Week 4, January 31

The Industrial City and Resorts for the Masses

Charles Funnell, By the Beautiful sea, Selections (Reader)

John Kasson, Amusing the Million, selections (Reader)

Kathy Peiss, Cheap Amusements, Selections (Reader)

Week 5, February 7

Urban Parks, Expositions, and the City Beautiful

Reading: Robert Rydell, All the World's a Fair, 38-104, 154-207

Week 6, February 14

The Auto Tourist: Motels, Cars, Mobile Homes, and Campgrounds

Warren Belasco, Americans on the Road

Skim Hal Rothman, Devil's Bargains, 143-167

Week 7, February 21

Midterm

Week 8, March 7

The National Park Experience

Hal Rothman, Devil's Bargains, 50-80

Richard Sellars, Preserving Nature in the National Parks, 1-46, 58-69, 101-108, 132-145, 180-195, 280-290

Lucy Lippard, "Too Much: The Grand Canyon (S)" (Reader)

Week 9, March 14

Fantasy History: St. Augustine, Sante Fe, and New Glarus

Steven Hoelscher, Heritage on Stage, Whole Book

Skim Hal Rothman, Devil's Bargains, 81-112

Week 10, March 21

History Tourism, The "Correct" Version: Williamsburg and Historic Preservation

Michael Kammen, Mystic Chords of Memory (Reader)

John Dorst, The Written Suburb Selections (Reader)

Dolores Hayden, The Power of Place, Selections (Reader)

The Tourist City, 215-244

Week 11, March 28

Americans Abroad

Mark Twain, Innocents Abroad, Selections (Reader)

Harvey Levenstien, Seductive Journey, Selections (Reader)

Tony Cohan, On Mexican Time, Selections (Reader)

The Tourist City, 124-139

First Draft of Paper Due

Week 12, April 4

The Mass Resort 1: Wildwood, Miami beach, and Las Vegas

Robert Venturi, Learning from Las Vegas (Whole Book, but plenty of pictures!)

The Tourist City, 107-123

David Rothman, devil's Bargains, 287-337

Alice Friedman, "The Luxury of Lapidus,"(Reader)

Deborah Dash Moore, "The Ta'am of Tourism,"(Reader)

Week 13, April 11

The Mass Resort II: Disneyland and Disneyworld

Steven Fjellmlan, Vinyl leaves, Selections TBA
Tourist City, 89-106

Week 14, April 18

The Culture of Tourism and Its Tensions

Annie Coleman, "The Unbearable whiteness of Skiing," (Reader)
Hal Rothman, Devil's Bargains, 168-286/338-370

Week 15, April 25

Urban Tourism: Zones of Transgression and Urban Entertainment Districts

John Hannigan, Fantasy City, 33-148
Rebecca Solnit, "Farewell, Bohemia" (Reader)

Final Draft Due

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