



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Human Geography

Syllabus

Tourism as a Force of Transformation

Course Code:	KGA103
Course Title:	Tourism as a Force of Transformation <i>Turism som en samhällsomvandlande kraft</i>
Credits:	7.5
Degree Level:	Master's level
Progressive Specialisation:	Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (A1N)

Major Field of Study:
KGA (Human Geography)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2026-02-17, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2026 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

A bachelor-level degree of at least 180 credits, including a minimum of 90 credits with progressive specialisation in the main field of Human Geography or equivalent. In addition, upper secondary level English 6 or English level 2. An equivalence assessment can be made.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to

1. explain how new tourism flows create and reshape places, environments, and tourist landscapes,
2. analyse and assess how tourism affects place-based practices, social relations, and geographical contexts,
3. analyse the complex societal role of tourism as both a force for development and a challenge for sustainable planning, and
4. critically evaluate the significance of tourism for place development and discuss tensions between growth, identity, sustainability, and justice.

Content

The course focuses on tourism by critically analysing the emergence of new tourism flows and new tourist spaces. In this context, tourism appears not only as an economic sector but as a dynamic force that reshapes places, spatial practices and social relations. The concept of Tourismoscene captures the global impact of tourism, where travel and the expansion of the tourism industry contribute to (re)defining ecological, cultural and economic conditions. The concept of Place Design highlights that planning for tourism is not only about creating infrastructure and designing experiences, but also about negotiating between competing interests, preserving place identity and managing tensions between growth, sustainability and justice. The course offers a deeper understanding of the complex role of tourism as both a driving force in place development and a challenge for sustainable spatial and social planning.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

All learning outcomes are assessed individually through participation in seminars and individual written assignments.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to Targeted Study Support due to a documented

disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

Grades

One of the grades VG (Pass with Distinction), G (Pass), or U (Fail) is awarded in the examination of the course.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.