



**JOHN FELICE
ROME CENTER**

ANTH 319: Anthropology of Tourism

John Felice Rome Center

Fall 2026

Tuesdays & Thursdays | 5.15-6.30pm

Office hours: Thursdays 3.30-4.30pm

Instructor: Elisa Ascione, PhD

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'The Leaning Tower of Pisa '

From 'Small World'. Pisa, Italy. 1990. Martin Parr | Magnum Photos

Course Description

This course offers a critical exploration of travel and tourism through an anthropological lens. Rather than treating tourism merely as a leisure activity, we will examine it as a complex social, cultural, political, and economic phenomenon. Throughout the semester, we will consider how tourism shapes the experiences, identities, and everyday lives of both visitors and host communities.

Topics will include: the historical development of travel and tourism; the cultural dynamics that emerge between hosts and guests; political, economic, and environmental dimensions of tourism; tourism and development; dark tourism (tourism in places of suffering); the meanings of souvenirs, photography, and the use of media in tourism imaginaries and consumptions, and overtourism and its impact on urban and rural environments, in Italy and globally. We will also focus on culinary and wine tourism in Italy, paying particular attention to how food, place, and heritage are marketed and consumed. We will consider the potential benefits tourism can bring to local communities, including opportunities for cultural revitalization, economic diversification, and community-driven forms of sustainable development. Students will also develop a multi-media project in which they engage with key themes on

culinary tourism and promote a local food market to English-speaking visitors, highlighting the cultural significance of regional products and the role such markets play in supporting community livelihoods. *Topics and activities are subject to change with prior notice from the professor.*

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view regarding key authors and theories in the anthropology of tourism
- Apply tourism theories to case studies in Italy & the Mediterranean /Europe
- Gather and interpret information from first-hand sources and scholarly material.
- Develop a more sophisticated understanding of tourism's role in creating cultural imagery and cultural stereotypes
- Identify the promises and limits of sustainable development/agritourism/"green tourism"

REQUIRED READINGS

Chambers, Erve. 2020 (Third Edition). *Native Tours: The Anthropology of Travel and Tourism*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press.

The book is available for purchase as an eBook on Google Play

<https://www.waveland.com/browse.php?t=138&r=a|143>

or on Kindle https://www.amazon.it/-/en/Erve-Chambers-ebook/dp/B07T85MPZG/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0

You are also required to read other journal articles and book chapters, which you can access through Sakai.

Sakai:

All course materials will be located on Sakai, which can be accessed at <https://sakai.luc.edu>

Sakai is a web-based learning management system. You will be able to access it from any computer connected to the internet. Instructional guides and video tutorials for using Sakai are available at:

<http://www.luc.edu/itrs/sakai/sakai-student-tutorials.shtml>

Course content, including syllabi, reading material, etc. will be available online.

Students should check Sakai often for announcements, assignments, and other course content.

Student Support Resources:

- ITS Service Desk: helpdesk@luc.edu
- Library Subject Specialists: <http://libraries.luc.edu/specialists>
- Student Accessibility Center: sac@luc.edu
- Writing Center: <http://www.luc.edu/writing/>

Attendance Policy

In accordance with the Rome Center mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, and in compliance with full-time student visa status, all courses adhere to the following attendance policy. Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student and synonymous with academic success. Attendance is mandatory at every class meeting for each course. Lateness or leaving class early will impact the course grade at the professor's discretion. All absences, including medical absences, will be treated the same, unless they are documented long-term conditions or emergencies. Such situations will be evaluated case-by-case by the Academic

Affairs office.

Twice-a-week classes:

- After 2 absences, a 2% final grade reduction will be applied for each missed class.
- Missing 6 classes or more will result in an automatic failure (F).

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest, and responsible manner. Academic integrity is a guiding principle for all academic activity at Loyola University Chicago, and all members of the University community are expected to act in accordance with this principle. Failing to meet the following academic integrity standards is a serious violation of personal honesty and the academic ideals that bind the University into a learning community. These standards apply to both individual and group assignments. Individuals working in a group may be held responsible if one of the group members has violated one or more of these standards.

1. Students may not plagiarize; the use of AI is considered plagiarism too and treated as such. Any Turnitin submission flagged over 20% will be investigated as potential plagiarism. Please keep draft versions of your saved work to show your progress in case you are called for a discussion about academic integrity.
2. Students may not submit the same work for credit for more than one assignment (known as self-plagiarism).
3. Students may not fabricate data.
4. Students may not collude.
5. Students may not cheat.
6. Students may not facilitate academic misconduct.

Follow this link for more details about these standards, sanctions, and academic misconduct procedures: (https://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml)

Title IX:

It is unacceptable and a violation of university policy to harass, discriminate against or abuse any person because of his or her race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, age or any other characteristic protected by applicable law.

The Rome Center follows Loyola's [Comprehensive Policy and Procedures for Addressing Discrimination, Sexual Misconduct, Retaliation](#) and will comply with those as indicated and instructed.

Assessment Components

- Class Participation (10%)
- Course Journal (10%)
- Midterm Exam (25%)
- Trionfale Market Fieldnotes (15%)
- Trionfale Stall Profile (10%)
- Trionfale Visual Media Post (5%)
- Final Exam (25%)

Class Participation (10%)

For spirited discussion, we will need your active attention and participation. Class participation grades are not automatic. They are based on oral contributions to the collective learning experience of the class. Participation means active engagement in the course: **being consistently prepared for class**

(having carefully read that day's assignments), asking questions, responding to questions, offering your own insights and opinions, and responding to others. The use of computers and smartphones is not allowed unless authorized by the instructor for assigned readings.

Full Rubric Available in SAKAI under "Resources"

Course Journal (10%)

Students will be required to keep a course journal. There will be regularly scheduled assignments to write a journal entry (e.g. analyses of primary sources, short summary of the reading due for the day, reflections, etc). Journals will also be used to reflect on what you learned during the course.

Journal entries must be handwritten and can remain relatively informal. They will be graded twice throughout the semester, i.e., before the mid-semester break and at the end of the course. Each of these checks is worth 7.5% of your grade, for a total of 15%.

Full Prompt and Rubric Available in SAKAI under "Resources"

Trionfale Market Fieldnotes (15%) + Trionfale Market Stall Profile (10%) + Trionfale Market Media Post (5%)

Students will develop a multi-media project in which they engage with key themes on culinary tourism and promote a local food market to English-speaking visitors, highlighting the cultural significance of regional products and the role such markets play in supporting community livelihoods.

You will need to visit the Trionfale Market twice independently in the morning in small groups as assigned by the instructor. The market is open Mon-Sat from 8.00AM to 12.30PM. It can be reached by bus 913 with a 15-minute ride. Have a tour and stay at the market for at least one hour and a half on both occasions. Participate in shopping and eating, ask questions to one vendor, take notes, and write up your observations and insights as soon as possible after the visit¹. Jot down observations about the entire market and focus on one stall. Create a final media post for an Instagram page to promote the market and the stall you visited.

Full Prompt and Rubric Available in SAKAI under "Resources"

Mid Term (25%) and Final Exam (25%)

These exams consist of multiple choices and short answers, bringing together the various concepts/topics you have studied. No alternative exam dates will be offered.

Grading

94-100: A

90-93: A-

87-89: B+

84-86: B

80-83: B-

77-79: C+

74-76: C

70-73: C-

67-69: D+

¹ (Adapted from Counihan, Carole. "Ethnography of Farmers' Markets: Studying Culture, Place, and Food Democracy" (2015) in *Teaching Food and Culture*, edited by Candice Lowe Swift and Richard Wilk, Left Coast Press, pp. 113–128.)

60-66: D
59 or lower: F

Please note: Final grades are not rounded up to the next letter grade. Students are asked not to request grade adjustments. For example, a 93.7% is an A- and will not be rounded up to 94% (A).

Late or Missed Assignments

Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorization of the instructor at least 24 hours before the deadline. After authorization, late work may incur a 3% deduction for every day work is late.

As per the JFRC academic policies, students who miss any scheduled exam or quiz, including a final exam at the assigned hours, will not be permitted to sit for a make-up examination without the approval of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Permission is given rarely and only for grave reasons; travel is not considered a grave reason. Make-up exams will only be given for documented absences.

Accessibility Accommodations

Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center (SAC) (<http://www.luc.edu/sac>) requiring academic accommodations should contact the Office of the Dean at the John Felice Rome Center, the

WEEK 1

Tuesday, September 1: Introduction to the Course and to the Study of the Anthropology of Tourism

Thursday, September 3: From Travel to Tourism: Theoretical Approaches

This section traces the shift from early forms of travel to the modern phenomenon of tourism, introducing the key theoretical frameworks that help us understand how mobility, meaning, and cultural encounters have been interpreted within anthropology.

Chambers, Erve. 2020 (Third Edition). *Native Tours: The Anthropology of Travel and Tourism*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press. pp. 1-15

Graburn, N. "Secular Ritual: A General Theory of Tourism.", 2001

WEEK 2

Tuesday, September 8: The Tourist as Subject

In this class, we examine the tourist as a social and cultural actor, exploring how desires, expectations, identities, and embodied experiences shape the ways individuals engage with places, people, and the meanings they attach to travel.

Chambers, Erve. 2020 (Third Edition). *Native Tours: The Anthropology of Travel and Tourism*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press. pp. 15-30

John Urry, *The Tourist Gaze 3.0*, 2011

Thursday, September 10: Tourism, Society, and Political Economy

In this class, we explore how tourism is embedded within broader social structures and global political-economic systems, examining the ways power, inequality, labor, and resource distribution shape tourism practices and their impacts on host communities.

Chambers, Erve. 2020 (Third Edition). *Native Tours: The Anthropology of Travel and Tourism*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press. pp. 31-68

WEEK 3

Tuesday, September 15: Culinary Tourism: Eating Otherness

This topic explores how culinary tourism frames food as a gateway to “otherness,” examining how tastes, traditions, and eating practices are packaged, consumed, and interpreted as cultural experiences.

Long, L. 2010 Culinary Tourism: A folkloristic perspective on Eating and Otherness, pp.20-50

Long, L. 2022, ‘Culinary Tourism’, *The Oxford Handbook of Tourism History*, pp. 579-616,

Thursday, September 17: Researching Culinary Tourism: the practice of ethnography

This topic introduces students to the ethnographic study of culinary tourism by examining how local food markets can be observed, interpreted, and analyzed as dynamic spaces where cultural identities, social interactions, and tourist encounters unfold.

Black, R. (2012) *Porta Palazzo: The Anthropology of an Italian Market*. 1st ed. Contemporary Ethnography. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, pp. ix-24

WEEK 4

Tuesday, September 22: Wine Tourism in Italy: an Overview

This class introduces wine tourism in Italy as a cultural, economic, and sensory experience, exploring how landscapes, traditions, and local identities are shaped and marketed through the production and consumption of wine.

Garibaldi, Zocchi, Pozzi, 2024, ‘An overview of wine tourism in Italy’, pp.1-15

Thursday, September 24: Wine Tourism as Niche Tourism

This class analyzes wine tourism in Italy as a form of niche tourism, exploring experiences centered on terroir, heritage, and local production that attract targeted audiences and contribute to the diversification of regional tourism economies.

Esau, Darcen, e Donna M. Senese. 2022. “The sensory experience of wine tourism: Creating memorable associations with a wine destination”. *Food Quality and Preference* 101 (ottobre 2022).

Deadline for First Trionfale Market Site Visit: Week 4

WEEK 5

Tuesday, September 29: Thursday, February 26: Case Study: Representing “family” through food tourism in Rome. The case of “Local Aromas”

Thursday, October 1: Tourism and Souvenirs Between Mass-Marketing and Heritage Products

This class examines how souvenirs mediate the relationship between tourists and destinations, exploring the tension between mass-produced commodities and heritage-based artisanal goods, and how each shapes cultural value and memory.

Buczowska-Gołębek, Karolina. 2025. “Food as Souvenirs”. In *Routledge Handbook of Food and Cultural Heritage*. Routledge.

Kaufman, 2001 “Selling Lourdes: Pilgrimage, Tourism and the Mass Marketing of the Sacred in 19th Century France” In *Being Elsewhere: Tourism, Consumer Culture and Identity in Modern Europe and North America*, edited by S. Baranowski and E. Furlough, Ann Arbor: Univ, of Mich Press.

WEEK 6

Tuesday, October 6: Midterm Review

- **Deadline for Field Notes (upload it on Sakai by 11.30pm)**

Thursday, October 8: Midterm Exam Bring your journal for corrections

Fall Break: October 9-18

WEEK 7

Tuesday, October 20: Nature, Tourism, and the Environment

This topic investigates the complex relationships between tourism, natural environments, and ecological change, examining how landscapes are imagined, used, protected, and exploited through tourism practices.

Chambers, Erve. 2020 (Third Edition). *Native Tours: The Anthropology of Travel and Tourism*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press Chambers, pp. 69-85

Belliggiano, Angelo, Letizia Bindi, e Corrado Ievoli. 2021. 'Walking along the Sheeptrack...Rural Tourism, Ecomuseums, and Bio-Cultural Heritage'. *Sustainability* 13 (16): 8870.

Thursday, October 23: Ecotourism and Agritourism

This topic explores how environmentally focused and agriculture-based forms of tourism create alternative models of travel that emphasize sustainability, rural livelihoods, and meaningful engagement with local landscapes and food systems.

Chase, Hollas, Davidson, 2026 'Agritourism: Sustaining Foodways and Agricultural Heritage', pp-331-347, *The Routledge Handbook of Food and Cultural Heritage*

Chambers, Erve. 2020 (Third Edition). *Native Tours: The Anthropology of Travel and Tourism*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, pp. 85-94

Friday, October 23: Small Reflections on Sun and Beach Tourism *The documentary examines the origins and development of seaside tourism on the Spanish coast of Valencia through sociological, urban, ecological, and cultural lenses.*

WEEK 8

Tuesday, October 27: Tourism and culture: language and representations

This class explores how language, narratives, and symbolic representations shape cultural meanings within tourism, influencing how destinations, identities, and experiences are constructed and interpreted.

Chambers, Erve. 2020 (Third Edition). *Native Tours: The Anthropology of Travel and Tourism*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press Chambers, pp. 95-112

Gravari-Barbas, Maria. 2019. 'What makes Paris being Paris? Stereotypes, simulacra, and tourism imaginaries'. *Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change* 17 (1): 27-41.

Thursday, October 29: Deconstructing the Tourist Gaze: Students analyze travel brochures, advertisements, or Instagram tags to examine what is highlighted, ignored, or "staged" (staged authenticity) to appeal to tourists.

Höckert, Emily, Monika Lüthje, Heli Ilola, e Erika Stewart. 2018. 'Gazes and Faces in Tourist Photography'. *Annals of Tourism Research* 73 November: 131-40.

WEEK 9

Tuesday, November 3: Case Study II: Sustainable Tourism in the Mediterranean: The case of Sawa – Taste of Tunisia

Thursday, Nov 5: Touring the Past: Archeology and Tourism

Today we explore how archaeological sites are interpreted, managed, and experienced through tourism, highlighting the ways the past is curated and made meaningful for contemporary visitors.

Timothy, Dr Dallen J., e Lina G. Tahan, "Archeology and Tourism: Consuming, Managing and Protecting the Human Past", pp.1-25, 2020 in *Archaeology and Tourism: Touring the Past*. Channel View Publications.

WEEK 10

Tuesday, November 10: Dark Tourism

Sites of death & tragedy have become popular tourist destinations. In Europe, Nazi concentration camps have become tourist attractions. This week, we examine Holocaust tourism, Jack-the-Ripper tourism, and other forms of "dark tourism." What attracts us to these places? What kinds of "authentic experiences" are sought in these spots?

Seraphin, Hugues, Babu George, e Maximiliano E. Korstanje. 2024. 'Anthropology of Dark and Thanatourism: A State-of-the-Art Analysis'. In *Anthropology of Tourism*. Apple Academic Press.

Thursday, November 12: Vacation Plantation – Movie and Discussion

Today, in the American South, there are as many historic plantation sites open to the public as there are Krispy Kreme locations across the United States. These sites indulging tourists' fantasies, rather than the horrific realities of the past. Vacation Plantation grants unparalleled access to the modern American plantation tourism industry – from the priorities of today's plantation owners, to the political balancing act of State representatives, to the descendants of the enslaved fighting for change. Archaeologist, Lauren Cudmore, goes on a journey to understand why millions of tourists continue to vacation at these sites of historic trauma.

WEEK 11

Tuesday, November 17: Material Culture, Performance and the Built Environment

We explore how material culture and embodied performances shape tourist experiences and mediate encounters with place, heritage, and everyday life

Wyer, Sean. 2023. Gourmet and the Ghetto: The "Foodification" of Rome's Historic Jewish Quarter. *Gastronomica* 23 (3): 29–45.

Chambers, Erve. 2020 (Third Edition). *Native Tours: The Anthropology of Travel and Tourism*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press Chambers, pp. 112-121

Thursday, November 19: Overtourism

We will critically examine how the expansion of mass travel, urban development, and global mobility gradually produced the pressures now experienced in many destinations, and what possible solutions are.

"From Boom to Burden: How Overtourism Hit European Cities" 18 Feb 2026.

<https://www.dw.com/en/from-boom-to-burden-how-overtourism-hit-european-cities/a-75834155>.

Bertocchi, Dario, e Nicola Camatti, 2022, 'Tourism in Venice: Mapping Overtourism and Exploring Solutions' on *A Research Agenda for Urban Tourism*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

WEEK 12

Tuesday, November 24 The "White Lotus" Effect

We will examine how popular media shapes destination imaginaries, influences tourist behavior, and accelerates processes of commodification and gentrification.

Fakih, Edurne Sosa El. 2025. "Luxury, Labour and the Fantasy of Wellness in The White Lotus and Tulum's Tourism". *Anthropology in Action*. *Anthropology in Action* 32 (1): 18–26.

Neil, Margaret Renata, e Sean C. Wyer. 2023. 'Sicily Can Be Very Seductive': The White Lotus and the Transnational 'Making' of the Mediterranean. *The Italianist* 43 (2): 241–61.

Thanksgiving Break Thursday 26 November-Sunday 29 November

WEEK 13

Tuesday, December 1- Final Remarks: Tourism and the Future in Volatile Times

Gibson, Chris. 2021. "Critical tourism studies: new directions for volatile times". *Tourism Geographies* 23 (4): 659–77.

Thursday, December 3: Final Revision

Deadline for Trionfale Visual Media Post (upload it on Sakai by 11.30pm)

7-10 December: FINAL EXAM WEEK