

Syllabus

Course Description

Course Title	Technological Trends and Applications in Tourism
Course Code	31006
Course Title Additional	
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	NN
Language	English
Degree Course	Master in Tourism Management
Other Degree Courses (Loaned)	
Lecturers	Prof. Marianna Sigala, Marianna.Sigala@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/1025
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	Second semester
Course Year/s	1
CP	6
Teaching Hours	36 Online
Lab Hours	-
Individual Study Hours	-
Planned Office Hours	18 Online
Contents Summary	This course explores emerging technological developments and their application within the tourism sector, with a particular focus on data-driven innovation. It aims to provide students with a critical understanding of how digital technologies shape the production, distribution, and consumption of tourism experiences. Topics may include, but are not limited to: big data analytics and business intelligence in tourism; AI and personalization; smart destinations; augmented and virtual reality; blockchain applications; platform economies; and sustainable digital innovation. Students will be encouraged to evaluate the implications of technological adoption for competitiveness, visitor

	engagement, and responsible tourism development
Course Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to: Information systems, strategic information systems and digital technologies, definition and drivers of digital innovation and digital transformation in tourism, hospitality and events • Digital innovation and digital business transformation in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o hospitality o visitor attractions and tourism experiences o Tourism Intermediaries o Digital distribution and digital marketing o Events, festivals and MICE sector o Destinations: destination management systems and smart destinations • Mobile technologies and applications: gamified mobile apps • Emerging technologies: applications and implications in tourism, hospitality and events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o XR, VR, AR, metaverse o AI o big data o robotics • Digital tourism, hospitality, and event innovations and sustainable development • Online reputation management • Legal and Ethical aspects of digital transformation
Keywords	Digital technologies, tourism, hospitality, events, destinations, digital transformation, digital applications, innovation, technology literacy, digital responsibility, smart tourism, smart destinations
Recommended Prerequisites	
Propaedeutic Courses	
Teaching Format	<p>The entire lectures and office hours will be held online.</p> <p>Form of teaching: Lectures, case studies, discussions</p> <p>The course combines theory with industry case studies and best practices of current and emerging digital technology applications in tourism hospitality and events. The lecturer will provide this case study material to students prior to the online class.</p> <p>Students are strongly encouraged to complete the suggested reading prior to attending the online class, so that we can use classroom time to delve deeper into applications, discuss emerging</p>

	<p>trends, debate real-world scenarios and the implications of digital technologies on industry, humans and society overall.</p> <p>This active learning approach will help students apply concepts meaningfully and critically.</p> <p>Student participation in the online class and discussions is a fundamental part of the teaching methods in this course. Hence, student participation is strongly recommended in order to get the most out of the learning experience.</p>
Mandatory Attendance	–
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes	<p>INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (ILO)</p> <p>ILO 1: KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING</p> <p>ILO 1.1 The student/trainee acquires specific competences and skills to deal with management issues from the perspective of the management of tourism enterprises, the development and promotion of tourism destinations and the planning and management of integrated tourism systems and individual services in strategic, organisational and administrative terms with an international and intercultural perspective.</p> <p>ILO 1.2 The student acquires the competence to understand and quantitatively analyse tourism phenomena in order to support business decision-making processes.</p> <p>ILO 2: ABILITY TO APPLY KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING</p> <p>ILO 2.1 The student acquires the ability to understand and analyse the problems characterising the tourism sector through the application of theories and models and the adoption of appropriate tools for the management of tourism enterprises.</p> <p>ILO 2.2 The student/undergraduate acquires the ability to use models for the analysis of the tourism market.</p> <p>ILO 3: AUTONOMY OF JUDGEMENT</p> <p>ILO 3.1 Acquire the ability to select data and use appropriate information to describe a problem concerning the management of tourism companies as well as tourism associations and destinations</p> <p>ILO 3.2 Acquire the ability to relate models and empirical evidence in the study of tourism businesses, associations, consortia and tourist destinations</p>

	<p>ILO 4: COMMUNICATION SKILLS</p> <p>ILO 4.1 The Master's degree graduate will be able to communicate effectively in oral and written form the specialised content of the individual disciplines, using different registers depending on the recipients and the communicative and didactic purposes, and to evaluate the formative effects of his/her communication. Written and oral communication skills are particularly developed in the training activities carried out for the preparation of the Master's thesis, in the discussion of business cases and in interactive lectures involving group discussions and the comparison of individual analyses.</p> <p>ILO 5: LEARNING SKILLS</p> <p>ILO 5.1 To identify thematic connections and to establish relationships between different cases and contexts of analysis</p> <p>ILO 5.2 To frame a new problem systematically and generate appropriate taxonomies.</p> <p>ILO 5.3 To develop general models from the phenomena studied.</p>
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes (additional info.)	
Assessment	<p>Same exam for attending and non-attending students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written examination (50%) • Individual Report (50%) <p>Written Examination:</p> <p>The final written exam (50% and 90 minutes) will consist of up to five short essay questions aimed at testing the students' knowledge of and ability to apply theories, models and/or concepts explaining the use, adoption, management and implications of technologies on various tourism/hospitality settings and stakeholders including companies, tourists, destination communities and people in general. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4, ILO5)</p> <p>Individual Report: Case Study / Problem Based Learning</p> <p>3000 Words maximum +/-10% (excluding table of contents and</p>

	<p>executive summary)</p> <p>Students will evaluate the transformative impact of digital technologies through a case study analysis of a real-world example in tourism, hospitality or event example. The focus will be on how digital technologies are transforming these industries. The analysis of these cases will uncover key factors of success and barriers to provide recommendations for leveraging digital innovations for future business success. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4)</p> <p>Any student discovered plagiarizing, engaging in academic dishonesty, or in any other dishonest conduct will fail the course and the regulations of the Faculty on academic misconduct will apply.</p> <p>Students must include in their project an AI declaration: If you have used or not used AI and generative language models for your assignment it must be explicitly acknowledged in a declaration that must be placed before the reference list of the project. If you use artificial intelligence, you take full responsibility for the text it generates, including any potential plagiarism or other unfair practices</p> <p>NOTES: Students should achieve a pass mark in both assessments (exam and individual report) in order to pass the course.</p> <p>The individual report is valid for 1 academic year and cannot be carried over beyond that time-frame.</p> <p>Submission Deadline of Individual Report: no later than two (2) weeks prior to the exam date.</p>
Evaluation Criteria	<p>Evaluation criteria of course assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Critical thinking and analytical capabilities of students to identify and apply appropriate knowledge acquired during the course for answering the exam and project questions - Students' ability to critically reflect, synthesise and debate appropriate theories to discuss the topics and issues in the written exam and individual project - Students creativity to identify, discuss and propose relevant

	<p>applications and solutions for managing the implications of digital technologies on the tourism, hospitality and events industry, humans (employees, tourists, residents) and society overall.</p> <p>Further instructions on how to get ready and prepare for the exam will be provided during the online class</p> <p>Further instructions about the writing and developing of the individual report as well as the grading matrix of the project will be provided during the course</p>
Required Readings	<p>Required Text:</p> <p>Xiang, Z., Fuchs, M., Gretzel, U., & Höpken, W. (Eds.). (2022). <i>Handbook of e-Tourism</i>. Switzerland: Springer</p>
Supplementary Readings	<p>Recommended Readings:</p> <p>The detailed list of recommended course reading and learning material will be announced at the beginning of the course.</p>
Further Information	
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<p>Good health and well-being, Decent work and economic growth, Industry, innovation and infrastructure, Partnerships for the goals, Sustainable cities and communities, Responsible consumption and production, Climate action, Reduced inequalities</p>