

**THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
BAKU STATE UNIVERSITY**

FOR MASTER'S DEGREE

Program of the course of

**THEORETICAL FUNDAMENTALS
OF COUNTRY STUDIES**

By specialty: 060803 – Tourism and hotel management

Baku – 2019

Course outline

“Theoretical fundamentals of country studies” is a geographical discipline engaged in the comprehensive study of countries. It systematizes and generalizes various data about the nature, population, economy, culture and social organization of a country or countries studied. This course is considered a part of geographical science. The course of “Theoretical fundamentals of country studies” is also an important component of tourism as a type of activity and a system of educational disciplines. It is taught for preparation of highly educated, professional personnel for tourism business. The course focuses on all components of tourism importance available at a country studied. These components constitute the conditions and prerequisites for the development of tourism in a country’s territory. Country studies are subdivided into geographical (general) regional studies and sections: linguistic and regional studies, political, tourism, etc. Within each section, both theoretical and practical aspects of disciplines exist and develop.

Course objectives

The ultimate goal of the course is to create a complex tourist characteristic as a set of conditions for the organization and development of tourism. For this, it is necessary to reveal the interrelationships and interdependencies of the components, since only their combination, spatial composition determine the uniqueness, the specificity of the “image” of the country in tourism. The main approaches, or methods used are: analytical, spatial, chronological (temporal), formal-logical, geographical and cultural. Beside with this, materials, approaches and methodological techniques of the course are historical, geographical (complex and problematic), political, cultural and others. Since tourism is a complex – multi-purpose and diversified type of economic activity, it includes several areas, each of which consists of a number of specialized industries. Each of them requires its own set of opportunities, different from the others, so it is necessary to consider and evaluate the relevant components of the characteristic from a certain angle. This brings tourism geography closer to regional geography, thus elevating the role of learning of the course of country studies.

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course at the end of this course, students should be able to know the basic terms and concepts of country studies, its functions, methods and principles which include the theoretical and methodological fundamentals of studies of the country’s:

- geographical position and its importance;
- relief properties and relief forms;
- climatic features and climate factors;
- sea waters and their properties, and marine environment;

- vegetation cover, biodiversity, fauna and flora;
- population, its composition, mobility and demographic development;
- distribution of languages spoken by population across territory;
- racial, ethnic and religious identity of population;
- distribution of cities and rural settlements;
- political typology of countries, and role of political factors and state boundaries;
- level of economic development, industrialization and agriculture;
- level of infrastructure and services, and transport;
- healthcare and education, art, sport and entertainment opportunities;
- environment and protected areas.

Students must possess the skills and the ability to determine the possibilities of organizing and developing any type of tourism at country level, with considering all the mentioned above.

Tentative schedule		
Hours (lecture and seminar class)	Topics	Readings
4	Geographical location of the country	Sapozhnikova E.N. 2004. Country studies: theory and methods of tourist country studies. 240 p.
4	Natural condition for the development of tourism	Sapozhnikova E.N. 2004. Country studies: theory and methods of tourist country studies. 240 p.
4	Characteristics of population	Sapozhnikova E.N. 2004. Country studies: theory and methods of tourist country studies. 240 p.
4	Analysis of history of a country	Sapozhnikova E.N. 2004. Country studies: theory and methods of tourist country studies. 240 p.
4	Culture as a component of tourism	Sapozhnikova E.N. 2004. Country studies: theory and methods of tourist country studies. 240 p.
4	Political conditions for development of tourism	Sapozhnikova E.N. 2004. Country studies: theory and methods of tourist country studies. 240 p.
4	Economy and infrastructure of a country	Sapozhnikova E.N. 2004. Country studies: theory and methods of tourist country studies. 240 p.edition. 240 p.
2	Environment and protected areas	Sapozhnikova E.N. 2004. Country studies: theory and methods of tourist country studies. 240 p.

Topics and their description

1. Geographical location of the country

Importance of geographical location in terms of tourism. Elements in a country's ability to prosper socially and economically that depend on its geographical location. Uses of absolute geographic location. Uses of relative geographic location. Studying the location of a country in context of the relations between places, landscapes and people, and describing of travel and tourism as an economic, social and cultural activity. Favorability factors of location.

2. Natural condition for the development of tourism.

Relief features of a country. Mountains, highlands, plateaus, low plains, volcanoes. Climate factors. Climate factors. Winds, precipitation. Change if weather by seasons of year. Atmospheric circulation. Climatic zoning. Types of climates. Agro-climatic resources. Sea waters. Inland waters. The largest rivers. Properties of rivers. Economic importance of rivers. The largest lakes, their genesis and hydrological regime. Glaciers. Water reservoirs. Groundwater, their economic importance. Uneven distribution of \water resources. Features of the distribution of various categories of lands (arable, pasture, forest and others). Soil cover. Vegetation. Flora and fauna species.

3. Characteristics of population

Population number. Geographical laws of distribution of population. Population growth and density. Demographic transition. Types of population reproduction. Age and gender aspect of demographics. Racial and ethnic composition of population. Language families and groups. Religious identity of population. Labor resources of the population of developed and developing countries. Economically active population. The quality of labor resources. Cities and urbanization. Suburbanization. Megacities and agglomerations. Ecological problems of big cities. Rural population. Population migrations. External and internal migrations. Relevance of population issues to tourism.

4. Analysis of history of a country

History of a country as an important component of cultural tourism. Relevance of historical processes to tourism. Historical or cultural importance of destination. Methodology of studying the history of a country. View on a country's past and historical processes in terms of demand for tourism. Most known historical events. Role of historical knowledge. Using historical heritage as a factor in tourism development. Historical monuments. Museums.

5. Culture as a component of tourism

Concepts of "national culture" and "popular culture" in human geography, their spatial distribution characteristics. Transformation of national culture into popular culture and the examples. The influence of natural-geographical and climatic factors on food, clothing, lifestyles of the population. The relationship between geographic isolation and cultural diversity. Popularization of individual cultural (music, sports, cuisine, etc.) examples of heritage. National culture and globalization process. The problem of the disappearance of ethnic cultures. The impact of information technology on the geography of popular culture. The effects of popular culture on the environment. Cultural and ethnographic factors and tourism.

6. Political conditions for development of tourism

Typology of countries. Developed and developing countries, their level of socio-economic development. Classification of the countries of the world by gross domestic product. Republic, unitary state. federal state. Leading international organizations. quantitative and qualitative shifts on the world map. Modern political map of the world. Impact of political processes on tourism industry. State boundaries as an important factor in the development of tourism.

7. Economy and infrastructure of a country

Economic structure of a country. Economic indicators. Fuel industry. Power industry. Alternative sources of energy. Processing industry. Development of businesses. Geography of agriculture. Agrarian and tourism sectors. Transportation. Types of transport (land, sea, river, aviation). International highways and transport hubs. Services. Improvement in social development and living. Infrastructure facilities and their accessibility. Healthcare, education, art, sport and entertainment industry.

8. Environment and protected areas

Environmental aspects of tourism. Environmental problems and tourism destinations. Natural landscapes and their attractiveness. Importance of protected areas. Distribution of national parks and other protected areas. Wildlife species. Protected areas and their categories. National parks. Peri-urban landscapes and their recreational importance.

Readings:

Basic:

1. Sapozhnikova E.N. 2004. Country studies: theory and methods of tourist country studies. (Textbook for higher educational schools). Moscow: Academia. Second Edition. 240 p.

Additional:

2. Sevastyanov, D.V. 2020. Regional studies and international tourism: a textbook for universities. 2nd ed. Moscow: Yurayt Publishing House, 327 p.
3. Ivanova, M. V., Sazonkina L. V., Polynova L. A., Kuzhel Yu. L. 2020. Tourist regional studies. Western and Northern Europe. Japan (textbook for universities). 2nd ed. Moscow: Yurayt Publishing House, 2020, 574 p.
4. Kuzhel Yu. L., Ivanova, M. V., Polynova, L. A., Sazonkina L. V. Tourist regional studies. Turkey. Near East. North Africa (textbook for universities). Moscow: Yurayt Publishing House, 2020. 363 p.