Program: Race, Identity and Ethnicity in Colombia
Course Title: Environmental Conflicts, Territorialities, and Ethnic Groups in Colombia
Course Code: CA/GEOG 310
Total Hours: 45
Recommended Credits: 3
Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Geography / Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, Latin American Studies, and Economics
Language of Instruction: English
Prerequisites/Requirements: None

Description
The purpose of this course is to examine the main dynamics and debates about environmental and territorial conflicts in Colombia. Although its main approach is based on geographic perspectives such as political ecology and environmental geography, this course encourages an interdisciplinary discussion and communicates with the broad social sciences. It is open to students from different backgrounds, providing them with tools to analyze some of the most important environmental and territorial conflicts in Colombia over the last decades.

The course has three modules. The first one has a theoretical emphasis and explores relevant international research to introduce the students to the Colombian case through a comparative perspective. The second module approaches not only the impact that the armed conflict has had on the territories of different ethnic minorities but also the evolution of illegal economies and their associated environmental conflicts. The third and final module presents relevant case studies of territorial and environmental collective actions from below.

Objectives
- Familiarize the student with key concepts in human geography, including but not limited to environment, conflict, and territory. The discussion revolves around a geographical perspective, while at the same time analyzing the conceptual contributions of other fields, such as sociology and anthropology.
- Provide a historical overview of the civil war in Colombia and its impacts on the configuration of territories for minorities and ethnic groups.
- Discuss the main environmental conflicts that have emerged over the last few decades and their relationship with the different illicit economies that have developed in Colombia, particularly in the countryside.
- Expose the student to a wide range of sources that will put into context central components of the transnational chain of illicit economy, especially coca and illegal mining.

Course Requirements
The course consists of class lectures, open discussions, and field visits to organizations, communities, and government offices related to the situation of agrarian economies, and the implementation of both territorial policies for ethnic groups and environmental agendas. Students
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are expected to actively participate in all lectures and field-based course components, and to read 50 pages, on average, per week in preparation for each lecture. Each student will be required to write four 2-page short critical essays that summarize and analyze the main aspects of the literature assigned for each of the weeks selected. One midterm will be scheduled at week 9. A final 12-page paper resulting from extensive analysis of both the required and optional readings as well as additional empirical sources will be assigned. The final manuscript will draw attention to the relationships between environmental conflicts, illicit economies, and the evolution of territories for minorities and ethnic groups.

Methods of Evaluation
- Short critical essays (4) – 50%
- Midterm (1) – 25%
- Final paper (1) – 25%

Primary Texts


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Supplementary Texts


The Economist. (2018). Colombia’s two anti-coca strategies are at war with each other.


Additional articles, films and web resources.
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#### Outline of Course Content

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Course overview: Environmental conflicts, territorialities, and ethnic groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Space, place, and environment: An introduction to human geography</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>The role of geography in research on conflict: World studies, the African Diaspora, and the genocide as a final solution – The case of Rwanda</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Latin America as an environmental subject and space of study: the logics of conflict and violence in comparative perspective</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Extractive economies, land grabbing and the rush for land in Latin America in the new century.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Colombia and its history of colonization, settlement and violent dispossession</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Conflicts for land and dispossession of the Afro-descent Diaspora: Deracination and palm plantations in Chocó</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Land structure in the new century: Descriptive statistics and applied cases (Violence and Community Councils in Urabá)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td><strong>Midterm</strong></td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Illegal economies and the cocaine curse. Is more (war) money really helpful?</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Marihuana, poppy, and coca in the double-standard war. A history of illegality, war against drugs, and collective empowerment</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Illegal mining, deforestation, and the paradoxes of development for ethnic groups</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>“Pacification” in the frontier, and the role of coercive conservation in areas of National Natural Parks (NNP).</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Collective action from below: The historical significance of the Cocalero Movement for peasant and indigenous groups</td>
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<td>Gender, violence and territory. Women as “violated objects” and subjects for the reconstruction of the socioeconomic fabric</td>
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<td>16-17</td>
<td><strong>Final paper</strong></td>
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