Program: Race, Identity and Ethnicity in Colombia  
Course Title: Crime and Justice in Colombia  
Course Code: CA/SOCI 315  
Total Hours: 45  
Recommended Credits: 3  
Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Sociology / Political Science, Latin American Studies, Criminal Justice, Peace & Conflict Studies  
Language of Instruction: English.  
Prerequisites/Requirements: None

Description
Because of the Colombian armed conflict, in the past two decades millions of Afro-Colombians have been victims of severe human rights violations regarded as crimes against humanity. This humanitarian crisis has deepened the historical and structural racial discrimination and exclusion suffered by these communities. This course explores the relationships between the institutional frameworks and the social processes through which Afro-Colombians have sought justice. This dynamic has involved an intense interaction between domestic and non-domestic institutions and political actors, and has led to the configuration of particular institutional arrangements of the relationships between crime and justice that applied to Afro-descendant groups. The course has an emphasis on the knowledge built on the Afro-Colombian grassroots’ experience.

Objectives
- To introduce concepts that allow students to understand and explain the complex relationship between crime and justice in Colombia.
- To familiarize students with the institutional architecture of the state and its judicial system.
- To learn how the internal armed conflict, paramilitarism, and drug trafficking emerged and evolved, and how the connections among them have affected Afro-Colombian communities.
- To expose students to the social processes thorough which Afro-Colombian victims of the conflict have pursued justice in the domestic and the international arena.

Course Requirements
The course consists of class lectures, open discussions, and field visits to organizations and communities, related to how the notion of crime is conceived and justice administered in the Colombian context. Students are expected to actively participate in all lectures and out-of-classroom activities, and to read 50 pages, on average, per week in preparation for each lecture. Each student will be required to write two 5-page analytical papers that reflect on aspects of the topics discussed in class, and one final 15-page paper resulting from an empirical in-depth investigation that draws attention to the relationship between victims of the armed conflict and the administration of justice.
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Methods of Evaluation

- Analytical papers (2) - 40%
- Final paper - 40% (research proposal 10%, actual research 30%)
- Participation & attendance - 20%

Primary Texts


National Center for Historical Memory. 2016. BASTA YA! Colombia: Memories of War and Dignity, Bogotá, CNMH, 2016.


Rodríguez-Garavito, César & Lam, Yukian. 2011. Etnorreparaciones: la justicia étnica colectiva y la reparación a pueblos indígenas y comunidades afrodescendientes en Colombia. Bogota: Centro de Estudios de Derecho, Justicia y Sociedad, Dejusticia


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Supplementary Texts
Additional articles, films and web resources.

Outline of Course Content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Course overview: Afro-Colombians, Crime and Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Philosophical Conceptions of Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The Colombian State and its Judicial System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Colombian Internal Armed Conflict: Origins and Trajectories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>On How Drug Trafficking and Paramilitarism Transformed Crime, Internal Armed Conflict, and Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>The Emergence of Afro-Colombians as Political Actors and the Institutionalization of “Racial Policies” <strong>Analytical Paper # 1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>The Impacts of the Internal Armed Conflict on Afro-Colombian Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Field Experience: An Encounter with Afro-Colombians Victims in Cali (visit or encounter)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 9    | The Legal Framework of Human Rights Violations against Afro-Colombians  
|      | • National Legal Framework  
|      | • International Legal Framework |
| 10   | Afro-Colombians, Human Rights and International Advocacy: Going Beyond Borders in Search of Justice I  
|      | • Afro-Colombians and U.S.-Colombia Bilateral Relations |
| 11   | Field Experience: San Basilio de Palenque |
| 12   | Afro-Colombians, Human Rights and International Advocacy: Going Beyond Borders in Search of Justice II  
|      | • The Inter-American Human Rights System |
| 13   | Afro-Colombians, Human Rights and International Advocacy: Going Beyond Borders in Search of Justice III  
|      | • The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)  
|      | • Other Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures  
|      | **Analytical Paper # 2** |
|      | • The Special Peace Jurisdiction (JEP), the Truth Commission, and the Special Unit for Finding Missing Persons |
| 15   | Afro-Colombians and Racial Profiling |
| 16   | Criminalization of Social Protest and Human Rights Defenders |
| 17   | Final Paper |