



CET ACADEMIC
PROGRAMS

Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Colombia

Course Code / Title: (CA/POLI 320) Reclaiming Blackness: Social and Political Movements in Colombia

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Political Science / Sociology, Latin American Studies

Language of Instruction: Spanish

Prerequisites / Requirements: None

Description

This course explores the organizational, social and political processes through which Afro-Colombians have fought to be recognized as a distinctive ethnic group and to eliminate racial discrimination. Despite the historical and structural racism that has disregarded Afro-Colombians as political actors, they have developed organizational processes that enabled autonomous living in their ancestral territories, political participation in the national arena, and resisting the violence of the internal armed conflict that has targeted them over the past two decades.

Emphasis is made on critical political and institutional processes: the 1990 Colombian constitutional reform that led to the recognition of the multicultural character of the nation and to the granting of collective land titles to Afro-Colombian communities, the establishment of a public policy system towards Afro-Colombians with ambivalent results, the Afro-Colombian organizational responses to address the rampant human rights violations against their communities that led to new mechanisms of articulation with transnational black and human rights activism, and their current political mobilization to be adequately included into the peace building process. The course offers an opportunity to understand a unique historical experience among Afro-Descendants globally: a struggle for racial justice that pursues equality and inclusion but also the right to be different.

Objectives

In this course, students

- Learn the basic concepts and information required to understand the emergence, evolution, trajectories and diversity of Afro-Colombian collective action.

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- Identify the most relevant contextual factors, both domestic and international, that have influenced the configuration and transformation of Afro-Colombian social movements.
- Examine how Afro-Colombians have faced several historical adversities and challenges though their persistence in reclaiming the right of equality and the right to be different.
- Become familiar with the most relevant experiences carried out by Afro-Colombian organizations that have pursued diverse agendas within the common horizon of claiming racial justice.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to be very active in the discussions of each session. Therefore, they must read assigned readings (20-30 pages per week). For most of the sessions, students must write a short paragraph offering a reflection/comment based on the reading. This assignment is part of the participation grade. Students also should prepare an oral presentation about one of the assigned readings. In terms of written assignments, students have to elaborate two 5-page analytical papers and one 10-page final paper.

Students are expected to attend each class and field-based course component, as outlined in the CET Attendance Policy.

Grading

- Oral presentation: 15%
- Analytical paper 1: 20%
- Analytical paper 2: 20%
- Final paper: 30%
- Participation: 15%

Readings

Asher, Kiran. "Ser Y Tener: Black Women's Activism, Development, and Ethnicity in the Pacific Lowlands of Colombia." *Feminist Studies*, Vol. 33, No. 1 (Spring 2007): 11-37

Cassiani Herrera, Alfonso. "San Basilio de Palenque: historia de la resistencia, 1599-1713." In *150 años de de la abolición de la esclavización en Colombia. Desde la marginalidad a la construcción de la nación*, edited by Ministerio de Cultura, 70-91. Bogotá: Ediciones Aguilar, 2003.

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Centro Nacional de Memoria Histórica. *¡BASTA YA! Colombia: Memorias de guerra y dignidad. Resumen*, 39-60. Bogotá: Imprenta Nacional, 2013.

Castillo Guzmán, E. “Etnoeducación afropacífica y pedagogías de la dignificación.” *Revista Colombiana de Educación*, N.º 71 (Segundo semestre de 2016), 343-360

Cortes-Ruiz, Pedro-Leon. “La Construcción de Políticas Públicas Para La Población Afrocolombiana entre 2002-2007: Una Aproximación Desde El Análisis de Las Políticas Públicas.” Master Degree thesis, 26-50. Universidad Nacional de Colombia, 2010.

Cortes-Ruiz, Pedro-Leon. “International Human Rights Advocacy by Afro-Descendants in the Americas, A Case Study of Contentious Politics in Colombia 1990-2015.” PhD diss, 48-96. Howard University, 2018.

Martinez, Maria Ines. *El Despertar de las Comunidades Afrocolombianas*, 202-256. Houston: Editorial LACASA, 2012

McAdam, Doug. “Beyond Structural Analysis: Toward a More Dynamic Understanding of Social Movements.” *Social Movements and Networks: Relational Approaches to Collective Action*, edited by Mario Diani and Doug McAdam, 281-297. USA: Oxford University Press, 2003.

Paschel, Tianna S. 2010. “The Right to Difference: Explaining Colombia’s Shift from Color Blindness to the Law of Black Communities.” *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 116, No. 3 (November 2010): 729-69.

Vigoya, Mara. “La interseccionalidad: una aproximación situada a la dominación.” *Debate Feminista* 52 (2016): 1–17

Wade, Peter (2012). “Afro-Colombian Social Movements”. In *Comparative Perspectives on Afro-Latin America*, edited by Kwame Dixon and John Burdick, 135-155. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2012

Wabgou, Maguemati; Arocha Rodríguez, Jaime; Salgado Cassiani, Aiden José; Carabalí Ospina, Juan Alberto. *Movimiento social afrocolombiano, negro, raizal y palenquero: el largo camino hacia la construcción de espacios comunes y alianzas estratégicas para la incidencia política en Colombia*, 61-141. Bogotá: Universidad Nacional de Colombia. Facultad de Derecho, Ciencias Políticas y Sociales. Instituto Unidad de Investigaciones Jurídico-Sociales Gerardo Molina (UNIJUS), 2012

Additional Resources

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Afro-Colombian Solidarity Network (ACSN). Accessed June 4, 2019.
<https://afrocolombian.org/>

Asociación Nacional de Afrocolombianos Desplazados (AFRODES). Accessed June 4, 2019. <http://www.afrodescolombia.org/>

Conferencia Nacional de Organizaciones Afrocolombianas (CNOA). Accessed June 4, 2019. <https://convergenciagnoa.org/>

Movimiento Nacional Cimarrón. Accessed June 4, 2019.
<http://movimientocimarron.org/>

Proceso de Comunidades Negras (PCN). Accessed June 4, 2019.
<https://renacientes.net/>

Outline of Course Content

Topic 1: Theoretical approaches to understanding social movements

- The relevance of theory
- Classical approaches
- “Contentious politics” approach

Topic 2: Historical and sociopolitical contexts that are required to understand Afro-Colombian social movements

- The Colombian State: origins, evolution, contemporary structure
- Social movements in Colombia: origins, evolutions, and dynamics
- Colombian internal armed conflict: origins, evolution, and dynamics

Topic 3: The emergence and evolution of early resistance processes

- Enslavement in Colombia
- Cimarronage and Palenques (El Palenque de San Basilio)
- The establishment of Afro-Colombian communities in the Pacific Coast

Topic 4: Social and political mobilization of Afro-Colombians from post-emancipation (1851) to pre-Constitutional Reform (1990)

- Afro-Colombian participation in nation-building.
- Afro-Colombian leadership and mobilization from early 20th century to the 1970s
- Consolidation of Afro-Colombian regional and national processes (1970s – 1980s)

Topic 5: The “late” recognition of Afro-Colombians as political subjects: On how Afro-Colombian mobilization achieved the recognition of the right to the difference (1991 Constitutional Reform and Law 70)

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- Afro-Colombian mobilization towards the 1991 *Asamblea Nacional Constituyente*
- Afro-Colombian and the crafting of Law 70/1993
- Implementation of Law 70/1993

Topic 6: Characterization of the Afro-Colombian Social Movement 1993-2015: agendas, organizational strategies, and levels of mobilization (national and local)

- Configuration of Afro-Colombian national platforms
- “Community councils”: Ethno-territorial organizations
- Organizations beyond rural territories

Topic 7: Public policies towards Afro-Colombians: Advances and tensions between the State and the Afro-Colombian social movement.

- Denial of Afro-Colombian existence as public policy (1851–1991)
- Rise and decline of “autonomy” as a guide for public policies (1993-2002)
- Rise and predominance of “integration” as a guide for public policies (2002- today)

Topic 8: Afro-Colombians, Colombian Internal Armed Conflict and Peace Building: Resistance and struggles

- Displaced Afro-Colombian organizations
- Resistance in the Afro-Colombian territories
- Mobilization towards the inclusion into the Peace Accord

Topic 9: Afro-Colombian Transnational Activism: The struggle for justice at the international human rights system

- Emergence of Afro-Colombian transnational activism
- Afro-Colombian human rights issues within the Inter-American Human Rights System
- Afro-Colombian human rights issues within the United Nations Human Rights System

Topic 10: Afro-Colombian Transnational Activism: Articulation with U.S. civil society and political actors.

- Afro-Colombian issues within U.S.-Colombia bilateral relations
- Coalitions and networks between U.S. political actors and Afro-Colombian organizations
- Outputs of transnational activism before U.S. political processes

Topic 11: Afro-Colombian Organizational Diversity I

- Afro-Colombian Youth
- The struggle for the right of an Afro-Colombian Ethno-Education

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- Afro-Colombian urban organization processes

Topic 12: Afro-Colombian Organizational Diversity II

- Intersectionality: Theoretical aspects.
- Afro-Colombian Women
- Afro-Colombian LGBT