

Syllabus of Record



Program: CET Colombia

Course Code / Title: (CA/SOCI 330) Race and Identities: Debates in the Colombian Context

Total Hours: 60

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, Economics

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites / Requirements: None

Description

This course examines the history of racial thinking and the experience of racialization in Latin America. Using Colombia as a case study, the course explores the changing dynamics of racial categories, particularly blackness, from the end of the colonial period to the present. Employing an intersectional approach, the course pays particular attention to how discourses of race, gender, class, war and geography intersect to create identities that are complex and multifaceted yet circumscribed by the socio-historical context in which they flourish.

Objectives

Through their participation in this course, students will:

- Be able to discuss the different histories of racial formation in Latin America
- Identify the major political, economic and social trends in Colombia
- Develop a basic understanding of the theories and research methods used in the study of race and identity in different fields and disciplines
- Gain a solid grasp of the intersection of race, class, gender, violence, and geography in the shaping of identity in Colombia
- Sharpen critical thinking and intercultural communication skills

Course Requirements

The course consists of class lectures, open discussions, and field visits to organizations, communities, and government offices. Students are expected to actively participate in all lectures and out-of-classroom activities. Reading assignments are generally 30-40 pages per class session.

Each student will be required to give an oral presentation about one aspect of race and identity, write 3 analytical essays (3-5 pages each), and one field report.

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

Grading:

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- Oral presentation (30%)
- 3 analytical essays (20%) each
- Field report (10%)

Bibliography

Alves, Jaime and Aurora Vergara-Figueroa. 2018. "En la Sucursal del Cielo (In The Branch of Paradise): Geographies of Privilege and Black Social Suffering in Cali, Colombia." In: Kwame Dixon and Ollie A. Johnson III, eds. *Comparative Racial Politics in Latin America*. Routledge. Pp. 183- 210

Barragán, Yesenia. 2016. "Free Black Women, Slavery, and the Politics of Place in Chocó, New Granada." *Revista de estudios colombianos* 47 (enero-junio): 57-66.

Cherubini, D. Geymonat, G. and Marchetti, S. 2020. "Intersectional politics on domestic workers' rights. The cases of Ecuador and Colombia." In: *Intersectionality in Feminist and Queer Movements*. Evans, Elizabeth and Éléonore Lépinard (Eds.). Routledge. London and New York, pp. 236-254.

Collins, J., & Blot, R. (2003). Literacy, power and identity: Colonial legacies and Indigenous transformations. In *Literacy and literacies: Texts, Power, and Identity*. New York: Cambridge

Dennis, C. 2012. "Afro-Colombian Hip-Hop: Resistance and Political Protests." In: *Afro-Colombian Hip-hop: Globalization, Transcultural Music, and Ethnic Identities*," pp. 43-68.

Dolby, N. 2004. "Encountering an American Self: Study Abroad and National Identity" *Comparative Education Review*, Vol. 48, No. 2, May 2004, pp 150-173.

Grueso, Libia, Rosero, Carlos, Escobar, Arturo (2003). "The Process of Black Community Organizing in the Southern Pacific Coast Region of Colombia." In: *Perspectives on Las Americas: A Reader in Culture, History, and Representation*. Eds: Mathew C. Gutmann, Félix V. Rodríguez, Lynn Stephen, Patricia Zavella

Lasso, M. 2006. [Race, War, and Nation in the Caribbean Gran Colombia, Cartagena, 1810-1832. The American Historical Review, Volume, Vol. 111. 2, pp. 336–361. Available online.](#)

Lima Freire, Maira. 2020. "Peddling Sweets and Pioneering Territory: Black Women and Work in Colombia's Caribbean Region." *Vibrant: Virtual Brazilian Anthropology* Vol 17, pp. 1-22.

Malagón, C. 2020. "Post-Conflict Visual Ecologies: Violence and Slow Violence in Chocó by Jhonny Hendrix Hinestroza and La tierra y la sombra by César Augusto Acevedo." *Revista de Estudios Colombianos* Vol 55, pp. 30-41.

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Viveros Vigoya, Mara. 2015. Social Mobility, Whiteness, and Whitening in Colombia. *The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*, Vol. 20, No. 3, pp. 496–512.

Sachseder, J. 2020. “Cleared for investment? The intersections of transnational capital, gender, and race in the production of sexual violence and internal displacement in Colombia’s armed conflict. *International Feminist Journal of Politics* Vol 22. 2, pp. 162-182.

Silva, C. 2021. “‘Africa has a history’: an Afro-diasporic examination of Black education in Colombia and Brazil.” *Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies*.

Valle, M. 2018. “The discursive detachment of race from gentrification in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 41(7): 1235-1254.

Vergara Figueroa, A (2017). “They Kill Us, Therefore We Exist?”. In: *Afrodescendant Resistance to Deracination in Colombia: Massacre at Bellavista-Bojayá-Chocó*, Springer, pp. 53-69.

Wade, P. 2008. Race in Latin America. In: Poole, D. (ed.) *A Companion to Latin American Anthropology*. London: Blackwell 177-192.

Wade, P. 2013. Articulations of eroticism and race: Domestic service in Latin America. *Feminist Theory* 14(2) 187–202.

Zapata Olivella, M. 1983. “A Stranger Under My Skin (Un Extraño en mi piel).” Trans. Brenda Frazier Clemons, *Afro-Hispanic Review* Vol 2.3, pp. 8-15.

Outline of Course Content

Topic 1: Introduction to the Course—Studying the history of race and racialization in a global context

- Learning to locate identity/race in a global context
- Comparative methods for understanding different racial regimes

Topic 2: Race and masculinity during the struggle for independence

- The construction of national racial imaginaries
- The construction of Black political subjectivity

Topic 3: Intersections of race and gender

- The gender-sex-race matrix in historical perspective
- Theories of intersectionality
- Black women, politics, and debates about freedom and citizen rights

Topic 4: Tracing and comparing race, ethnicity and identities in Colombia and in Latin America

- Race and identity in comparative perspectives

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- Historical overview of race and ethnicity in Latin America
- Key aspects of racial ideologies in Colombia

Topic 5: Racial domination, social (im)mobilities and strategies of coping with racial stigmatization

- Social whitening
- Symbolic violence and making of racial identities
- Resistance, endurance and resilience

Topic 6: Black struggles for self-determination

- Introduction to the history of Afro-Colombian social movements
- Political change and the (re)shaping of black identities
- Field visit to women-led organization

Topic 7: The other history of education in Colombia

- Legal reform and the turn toward multicultural education (1990's -present)
- "Ethno-education" and the Cátedra de Estudios Afro-Colombianos" (Black Studies Course)

Topic 8: Displacement and violence: (re)configuring identities on the move

- Forms of migration (internal displacement and migration)
- Continuum of violence(s)
- Racialized geographies, imagined belongings
- 'New' categories of identity

Topic 9: Coping with racial stigmatization, violence and displacement

- The effects of displacement
- Remembering violence, re-making identity

Topic 10: Race and urban marginality: The case of Cali, Colombia

- The real and imaginary geographies of race and class in Cali
- Intersection of race, class, gender, and "urban development" projects
- Field visit to community organization in Agua Blanca

Topic 11: Gentrification, race and the (re)making of the tourist city: The case of Cartagena

- Tourism, the modernization of city, and the whitening of urban space
- Ethnography of urban reform: Race vs class in debates about gentrification

Topic 12: Employment discrimination and labor activism

- Theories about discrimination in the labor market
- The wage gap: the confluence of race and gender
- Political organizing and labor activism

Topic 13: Music and Afro-Colombian social movements

- Youth culture and political mobilization

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- Globalization and the commodification of racial identities
- The role of popular music cultures in socio-political activism

Topic 14: Blackness and the literary imagination

- Introduction to the history of Afro-Colombian literary production
- Afro-Colombian literature in a diasporic perspective

Topic 15: Race and the cinematic imagination

- The representation of blackness on the screen
- The intersection of race and nature on screen
- Film screening: *Chocó*, Dir. Jhonny Hendrix, 2012, 80 mins, drama

Topic 16: Conclusion—Black political organizing in the 21st century

- Pacemaking and Black political participation
- Gender and activism