I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Ecuador’s latest constitution boasts of the multiethnic, pluricultural nature of this tiny Republic. Historically this variety was not as cherished. How or why is this different today? Is this constitutional claim a source of pride for everyone? Is it a political maneuver to please all ethnic groups? This course explores how the notion of culture and ethnicity have been conceptualized and deployed from the colonial period to the present by examining practices of social organization, cultural traditions, and identity politics as manifested in daily practice and through social movements. The course will also include a strong reflexive component in terms of how you, the onlooker and observer, play a part in these conceptualizations.

This course will be held to typical standards as seen in most colleges and universities in the United States, that is, the work load and the expectations as to the integrity of the work will be fairly high. Plagiarism and copying will not be tolerated. If you are caught doing either, you will automatically fail the course.

II. READINGS

The required readings for this course are a set of articles that are available for photocopy at CEDEI. The bibliography is available at the end of this syllabus.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS & EVALUATION

Course evaluation will be based on a reflexive self-identification paper (15%), one film analysis (10%), one exam (20%), ethnographic fieldnotes that you will take during the duration of the program (40%), and participation (15%).

If you have a disability for which you would like to make accommodations for the purpose of examination, please be sure and discuss this with me prior to the exam. Also please feel free to discuss with me any way that I can help to meet your specific needs.

SELF-IDENTIFICATION PAPER:
For this paper, you are expected to describe how you identify yourself in terms of race and ethnicity in relation to your life, geographical and cultural context. This will help get us ready to
problematize the notion of race and ethnicity. As you write the paper, please contemplate how or why it is you are using the descriptors you use to describe how you identify yourself in society.

The paper should be between 1500-2500 words. It should be single-spaced with a space between the paragraphs. Include your name, the date and the course name at the top of the first page. You should save your document with the following formula for the title: “Last NameFirst Initial-SelfID” so if your name is Sally Martin then your document title would be “MartinS-SelfID.”

This paper is due before the first day of class (Monday, October 24) to my email address: profetamara@gmail.com.

FIELDNOTES:
We will first read about and discuss why it is important to take fieldnotes before you will be required to write. Each assignment must be at least 1500 words, single-spaced and with a space between paragraphs.

Include your name, the date and the course name at the top of the first page. Save your document with the following formula: “Last NameFirst Initial-FN#” so if your name is Sally Martin and this is your second set of fieldnotes then your document title would be “MartinS-FN2.”

Your notes will be due before the indicated class below by email to profetamara@gmail.com.

FILM ANALYSIS:
We will be watching an Ecuadorian-produced film entitled “Qué tan lejos” as the basis for this paper. The analysis should be between 1500-2000 words. Instructions on the content of the analysis will be given in class.

Include your name, the date and the course name at the top of the first page. Save your document with the following formula: “Last NameFirst Initial-Lejos” so if your name is Sally Martin then your document title would be “MartinS-Lejos.”

Your analysis will be due before class on Monday, November 21, 2011 by email to profetamara@gmail.com.

PARTICIPATION:
This grade will be based on your participation in class which contemplates your preparedness with the readings and the extent to which you actively engage with the readings in class as opposed to simply answering my questions.

EXAMINATION:
The final examination takes place at the end of the class. It is primarily short answer and essay based on the entire range of course readings.

Grading Scale:
My grading scale is based on 100 percentage points, and grades are broken down as follows:
IV. COURSE SCHEDULE

We will have class for six weeks straight from October 24 through December 1 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in room 104 at CEDEI, except where noted below due to holidays and preparation time for final exam.

Course introduction / overview

CLASS 1
- Reflexive self-identification paper due before class!!
- Course introduction: Who are you? Who am I? Where are we? Who are “they”? Which “they”?
- Review syllabus and readings
- Relationship: theory and lived experience

- CLASS 2
  - Taking field notes
  - Major terms for the course

Reading:

- CLASS 3
  - Major terms for the course
  - Race, ethnicity and the colonial encounter

Reading:
- Shohat & Stam, Unthinking Eurocentrism, pp. 13-27, skim 32-37, pp. 37-49
- Optional: Ch. 6

The “Race” question in the Andes

- CLASS 4
  - Divide up the readings for next class
  - NOTE: To bring two books to next class

Reading:
Portrayals of “the other”

- CLASS 5
  - Fieldnotes #1 due!
  - NOTE: To bring two books to next class

Reading:

Where are we right now? – Local context

CLASS 6

Reading:

Esmeraldas, slavery & blackness in Ecuador
- **CLASS 7**
  - Fieldnotes #2 due!

  **Reading:**

**Social inequality & identity**

- **CLASS 8**
  - NOTE: You need to bring two books next class!

  **Reading:**

**Syncretism, Globalization and Identity**

- **CLASS 9**
  - Introductory Lecture: Syncretism, Globalization and Identity
  - Globalization & identity

  **Reading:**

- **CLASS 10**
  - Syncretism
  - Assign readings for Tuesday’s class

  **Reading:**

- **CLASS 11**
  - Fieldnotes #3 due!
  - Watch Ecuadorian film “Qué tan lejos”
  - Write up an analysis of the we’s and the they’s
  - Note: Need to bring two books to class tomorrow!

**Politics and identity**

- **CLASS 12**
  - **Reading (PICK TWO):**


*Identities, Politics, Resources & Power in Contemporary Ecuador: Black Gold*

**CLASS 13**
*Reading:*

- Sawyer, Suzana. *Crude Chronicles*, pp. 17-23, 27-56

**CLASS 14**
*Reading:*

- Sawyer, Suzana. *Crude Chronicles*, pp. 57-87

**CLASS 15**
- Analysis of the we’s and the they’s of “Qué tan lejos” is due
*Reading:*

- Sawyer, Suzana. *Crude Chronicles*, pp. 149-181

**CLASS 16**
*Reading:*

- Sawyer, Suzana. *Crude Chronicles*, pp. 182-209, 211-223

*Theoretical reflections & Closure*

**CLASS 17**
*Reading:*

- OPTIONAL:

CLASS 18
Reading:
- OPTIONAL:

- CLASS 20
  - Fieldnotes #4 due!
Reading:
- Bhabha, Homi. The Location of Culture, Ch. 2, pp. 57-74, Ch. 3, pp. 94-108
- Optional: Ch. 12 (Conclusion), pp. 338-367

- CLASS 21: Catch-up day

- CLASS 22: Final Exam Review

Final Exam
BIBLIOGRAPHY


