



## Syllabus of Record

**Program:** CET Colombia

**Course Code / Title:** (CA/ANTH 330) The Cultures of Afro-descendants in Colombia

**Total Hours:** 45

**Recommended Credits:** 3

**Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings:** Anthropology/ History/ Latin American Studies.

**Language of Instruction:** Spanish

**Prerequisites / Requirements:** None.

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### Description

The 1991 Constitution recognizes the Colombia's multi-ethnic and multi-cultural composition and considers the need for affirmative action aimed at achieving equality between ethnic groups. This effort requires an understanding of Afro-descendant struggles and contributions towards nation-building, the fight against racial and gender discrimination, and the enhancement of inter-ethnic coexistence.

This course seeks to delve into the manifestation of racial and ethnic dynamics in the formal educational system and to provide a context for research and reflection on the heterogeneous presence of the African diaspora in Colombia. In addition, the course explores a trend of national anthropology that emerged in the 1950s with Achilles Escalante and Rogelio Velázquez, the first ethnologists dedicated to the study and description of Black populations and cultures of the Pacific and Caribbean (Caicedo 2013, 436). The course focuses on two key components: 1- the development of the Black Studies field in national anthropology and 2- its artifacts, symbols and historical manifestations in Colombian territories.

### Objectives

In this course, students:

- Gain an overview of the main cultural debates and expressions of Afro-descendant communities in Colombia and their contributions to nation-building.
- Identify the main anthropological debates on the studies of Black cultures in the country.
- Understand the similarities and differences between Black cultures in Colombia.
- Recognize some symbolic and material functions of Black, Afro-Colombian, Palenquera and Raizal (San Andrés) communities in nation-building.

### Course Requirements

Students are expected to actively participate, with justified and relevant opinions, and seek to contribute as much as possible to the development of the class. Students are also expected to complete assigned readings before class to prepare for discussions.

Readings are usually 30 to 40 pages. Assessments consist of:

- 15-20 minute presentations, in addition to 5-10 minutes for questions and comments.

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- 2 reflection papers, 1 to 3 pages in length.
- Group work, in and outside the classroom.
- 1 ethnographic work (participant observations and field diaries from San Basilio de Palenque)
- Reading comprehension assignments and daily questions to evaluate the understanding of the texts.

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

### Grading

The overall course evaluation consists of two main components. The first one is individual (50%) and is made up of written and oral presentations about the texts, the elaboration of reading comprehension assignments and reflections about the text. The second one is group-oriented (50%), related to class activities, such as debates, presentations, and essays.

#### Individual

- 2 reflection papers 30%
- Question formulation for each text, presentations, and/or class participation 20%

#### Group-orientated

- Group work, workshops, presentations, debates 20%
- Ethnographic work 30%

### Readings

Angola, Mercedes. «Una aproximación a las estéticas afrodescendientes en el arte colombiano contemporáneo.» En *Cátedra de estudios afrocolombianos. Aporte para Maestros*, de Axel Rojas, 82-97. Popayan: Editorial de la Universidad del Cauca, 2008.

Arboleda, Santiago. «Conocimientos ancestrales amenazados y destierro prorrogado: la encrucijada de los afrocolombianos.» En *Afro-reparaciones: memorias de la esclavitud y justicia reparativa para negros, afrocolombianos y raizales*, de Claudia Mosquera Rosero-Labbé. 2007.

Caicedo, Jose Antonio. *A mano alzada. Memoria escrita de la diáspora intelectual afrocolombiana*. Popayán: Sentipensar Editores, 2013.

Caicedo, Jose Antonio. «Diáspora africana. Claves para comprender las trayectorias afro descendientes.» En *Cátedra de estudios afro colombianos. Aporte para maestros*, de Axel Alejandro Rojas, 82-97. Popayán: Editorial de la Universidad del Cauca, 2008.

Desch-Obi, Thomas. «Peinillas and Popular Participation: Machete fighting en Haití, Cuba y Colombia.» *Memorias: Revista digital de historia y arqueología desde El Caribe*, N°. 11,, 2010: 144-173.

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Escalante, Aquiles. *El negro en Colombia. Cátedra de estudios Afrocolombianos. 2ed.* Universidad Simón Bolívar, 2002.

Escalante, Aquiles. «Escalante, Aquiles. Notas sobre Palenque de San Basilio, una comunidad negra en Colombia.» *Divulgaciones Etnológicas. 3(5)* (Universidad del Atlántico. ), 2012: 207-354.

Guber, Rosana. *La etnografía. Método, campo y reflexividad.* Buenos Aires: Siglo XXI Editores, 2011.

Instituto Colombiano de Antropología e Historia - ICANH. « Demografía de la Trata por Cartagena 1533-1810.» En *Geografía Humana de Colombia. Los Afrocolombianos* , 9-53. Bogotá: Instituto Colombiano de Antropología e Historia, 1998.

Jojoa, Yenny. «Legislación, Derechos Humanos y derechos de los grupos étnicos.» En *Cátedra de Estudios Afrocolombianos. Aportes para maestros.*, de Axel Rojas (Coord.), 231-242. Popayán: Editorial Universidad del Cauca , 2008.

Maya, Adriana. *Atlas Afrocolombiano.* 2003.  
<http://colombiaaprende.edu.co/html/etnias/1604/article-85714.html>.

Motta, Nancy. «Choque cultural: entre indígenas e ibéricos.» En *Gramática Ritual*, 69-97. Universidad del Valle, 2013.

Mullings, Leith. «Interrogando el racismo: hacia una antropología antirracista.» *Revista CS, n. 12,* 2013: 325-375.

Restrepo, Eduardo. «Estudios afrocolombianos” en la antropología: tres décadas después.» En *Antropologías en Colombia. Tendencias y debates*, de Jairo Tocancipá-Falla, 167-218. Popayan: Universidad del Cauca, 2016.

S de Friedeman, Nina; Arocha, Jaime. «Los códigos del sol.» En *De sol a sol: génesis, transformación y presencia de los negros en Colombia*, de Nina S de Friedeman y Jaime Arocha, 5-57. Bogotá: Planeta Colombiana Editorial., 1986.

Solarte, Ana Maria. «La Palabra: Tradición oral y literatura afrocolombiana .» En *Cátedra de estudios afro colombianos. Aporte para maestros* , de Axel Rojas, 243-256. Popayán: Editorial de la Universidad del Cauca., 2008.

### Outline of Course Content

Section 1 and 2. Black people and Blackness in Colombian Anthropology.

- Colombian anthropology
- Black people in national anthropology

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- Studies of the Blackness in Colombia
- Section 3 and 4. Ethnography, method, field and reflexivity
- Ethnography
  - The method
  - The field and anthropological reflexivity
- Section 5. Presence of Africa in Colombia.
- African empires
  - Power and territory
  - Colonialism and transatlantic exploitation
- Section 6. Enslavement and Forms of Resistance
- The slave trade in Cartagena.
  - Forms of enslavement in Colombia.
  - Forms of resistance and women's agency
- Section 7. Population and Community
- Interethnic relations
  - Cultural conflicts
  - Defending territory
- Section 8. From Oral Tradition to Written Tradition
- Tales and myths
  - Sayings and proverbs
  - Between pens and inks. Literature
- Section 9. Pain and Songs of Joy
- Funerals for the living
  - Funerals for the dead
  - Hymns
- Section 10. Colors and Aesthetics
- Black people in national art
  - Black paintings
  - Anti-racist sculptures
- Section 11. Machete and embroidery
- Development and territory
  - The extended family
  - The machete and the embroidery
- Section 12. Doing anti-racist ethnography in Black territories
- Participant observations
  - Field diaries
  - Reflexivity research
- Section 13. Review and Final Presentations