CIEE in Cusco, Peru

Course name: Human Rights and Democracy in Peru
Course number: POLI 2001 CUPE
Programs offering course: Peruvian Studies
Language of instruction: English
U.S. Semester Credits: 3
Contact Hours: 45
Term: Fall 2019

Course Description
The course will examine the evolution of democracy and human rights in Peru over the last decades, with an emphasis on the impacts on democracy and human rights of the internal armed conflict, neoliberal reforms, and the conflicts surrounding mining, agriculture and water rights. Students will learn about current social movements and the modern political landscape in Peru through readings, classwork and co-curricular activities.

Learning Objectives
• Students understand the historical process and contemporary reality of democracy and human rights in Peruvian society;
• Students understand the specific challenges for human rights in a plurinational and intercultural context;
• Students understand the interrelation between different human rights, and in between human rights and democracy;
• Students learn to analyze the concrete realities of human rights in Peruvian society through field work activities

Course Prerequisites
None.

Methods of Instruction
The course will include lectures, class debates, the regular use of audiovisual material, dialogues with guest speakers and two field trip assignments.

Assessment and Final Grade
Final grades will be determined based on the following distribution:

1. Mid-term exam 20%
2. Field work report 20%
3. Final paper (research project) 30%
4. Oral presentation of research project 20%
5. Participation in class 10%

Course Requirements

Mid-term exam
The mid-term exam will take place on the date defined in the weekly schedule below. It will be over the assigned readings.

Field work report
At least once during the course, students will conduct a group research assignment during a field trip in which the theory and debates of the course are used to analyze daily life dynamics in Peruvian society. The report of the assignment will be preferably a video, photo-essay or other creative form.

Final paper
Each student will write a final paper on a topic related to the class, under the direct supervision of the teacher. It will be due a week after the end of class sessions.

Oral presentation of the research project.
Students will give a short (10 minute) presentation in class on his/her final paper, to share the findings with fellow classmates. The use of PowerPoint presentations and/or videos is encouraged.

Attendance and Class Participation
Attendance is not optional and will be taken at the beginning of each class session. Positive participation throughout the semester will have a favorable impact on your grade.

Weekly Schedule
The course is organized in four blocks: two introductory sessions to organize the class and provide a basic theoretical framework, four sessions to provide an historical oversight of the development of democratic and human rights institutions, discourses and culture in Peru, five sessions to address specific challenges for democracy and human rights in Peru, and two final sessions to share final presentations and conclusions by the group.

Week 1
INTRODUCTION AND ORGANIZATION OF THE CLASS
Introduction to class.

Week 2
A SHORT INTRODUCTION TO DEMOCRATIC THEORY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN LATIN AMERICA
Students will read different texts, with different theoretical and political stances towards democracy and human rights, which will be discussed in a creative form in the classroom, providing an initial theoretical framework for the complete course.


---

**Week 3**

**HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS OF CONTEMPORARY PERU: NATION BUILDING AND THE COLONIALITY OF POWER**

This session will explore the historical foundations of contemporary Peru, and the emergence of democracy and human rights regimes and discourses


Week 4

CONTEMPORARY TRANSFORMATIONS OF PERUVIAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY I: TRANSFORMING THE OLD REGIME

This session explores the processes of transformation of the old regime in Peru, through social struggle and military reform.


Documentary on Hugo Blanco and/ or interview with this historical farmer leader


Week 5

CONTEMPORARY TRANSFORMATIONS OF PERUVIAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY II: THE RETURN TO (WHAT?) DEMOCRACY, NEOLIBERAL AJUSTMENT IN TIMES OF CRISIS, WAR AND AUTHORITARIANISM

This session will explore the transformations of Peruvian society in the decades of the 80s and 90s through war, economic crisis, structural adjustment policies and political authoritarianism, and their impacts on democracy and human rights.

The class will view the film Magallanes directed by Salvador del Solar
Week 6

CONTEMPORARY TRANSFORMATIONS OF PERUVIAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY IV: NEW CONFLICTS AND THE DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION

This session will analyze the last fifteen years, through a perspective of democratic transition, assessing to what extent this process strengthened democratic and human rights culture and institutions in the country.


**Week 7**  
**MID TERM EXAMN**  
No classes (exam week).

**Week 8**  
**HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY IN THE CORPORATE REPUBLIC: CORRUPTION, INEQUALITY AND NEOLIBERALISM**  
This session explores the challenges and limitations that neoliberal politics and institutions, and persisting social and economic inequality, pose to human rights and democracy. Students will analyze how political dominance by economic elites and the deep culture of corruption pose serious limits to democratization and the State’s capacity and willingness to guarantee human rights to its citizens.


**Week 9**  
**HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY IN TIMES OF EXTRACTIVISM**  
This session explores the emergence of new social conflicts on environmental and territorial issues caused by the expansion of extractivist activities, like mining and oil exploitation, and its implications for democracy and human rights.

During the class the students will see and discuss a documentary on mining conflicts made by Guarango Videos. It could either be *Devil Operation* or *The Daughter of the Lake*.


Raphael Hoetmer, “This is no longer a democracy…” Thoughts on the Local Referendums on Mining on Peru’s Northern Frontier” in: Sonia Alvarez, Agustin Lao Montes, Millie Thayer, Jeff Rubin and Gianpaolo Baiocchi (eds.), *Beyond Civil


**Week 10  FIELD VISIT: ESPINAR**
In collaboration with local NGO *Derechos Humanos Sin Fronteras*, the students will visit the mining zone Espinar. They will speak to community leaders and activists and make a creative report on their visit.

**Week 11  HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY IN POST-CONFLICT PERU**
This session will explore the advancements in terms of transitional justice, and its implications for human rights and democracy in contemporary Peru.

This session includes a series of short documentaries made by DocuPeru on these issues, which include *Sanctuary and Memories and Flowers from Huancabamba*


**Week 12  DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN A PLURINATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL SOCIETY**
This session will explore the specific challenges of plurinational and intercultural society for human rights and democracy, both in terms of the recognition and effective implementation of equal rights for indigenous peoples, farmers and afro-peruvian citizens, in terms of the recognition and effective implementation of rights based on cultural difference.


Week 13  INTERSECTIONALITY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY IN A PATRIARCHAL SOCIETY
This session explores the challenges and limitations contemporary patriarchal society poses to human rights and democracy, and the situation of women and LGTB populations in the country. This session will explore the notion of intersectionality to analyze how differences in terms of exclusion and discrimination exist in between different groups of women, but also to show how different rights are interconnected.

This session should/could include a dialogue with key feminist activists and thinkers: Virginia Vargas or Rocio Silva Santisteban. The students will also see the short documentary *Loxoro* by Claudia Llosa.


Week 14  FINAL PRESENTATIONS AND DEBATE
Students will present their final papers.

Week 15  FINAL PRESENTATIONS AND DEBATE
Collective discussion and a comprehensive debrief will constitute the conclusions of the course.
Readings


---------, “Rethinking the politics of anthropology, the case of the Andes,” Current Anthropology 35:13-38.


Readings indicated in the Weekly Schedule should reference the work using a simplified style
of the work cited, including relevant page numbers. For example: (Pollan 2006, 99-100). Cornell University Library has a brief outline of helpful tips for MLA Style formatting at: (http://www.library.cornell.edu/resrch/citmanage/mla#mla).