GEOG 6220-102: Seminar in Human Geography – Indigenous Development in Latin America

Course Description:
This course introduces you to the geographies of development that characterize the state policies and international programming now targeting Indigenous peoples in Latin America. But before we delve into and truly understand those details, we will explore the historical patterns and contemporary processes that have contributed to the socio-economic and political marginalization that distinguishes Indigenous populations in this part of the world. We will also examine the aims and strategies of today’s Indigenous movements that struggle to assert control of the environmental and cultural resources found in their historical and current territories.

Class Dates, and Format Information:
Dates: April 16 – 18 & 23 – 25, 2021
Format: Zoom, using the same hours as listed below.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: March 18, 2021

Site Director and Information for VA Benefits:
Location: College of Allied Health, OU Health Sciences Center, 1200 N. Stonewall, Oklahoma City, OK 73117-1215
Hours: Friday 5:30-9:30 p.m.; Saturday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.
Email: apokc@ou.edu, Phone: 405-271-4522.

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Laurel C. Smith, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability
100 East Boyd St., SEC 510
University of Oklahoma
Norman, OK 73019
Telephone Number: (405) 325-5325
E-mail Address: laurel@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions, and by appointment.

Instructional Materials:
Materials posted on the OU Canvas learning management system: Access Canvas at https://canvas.ou.edu, enter your OU NetID and password, and select course to access material. If you require assistance with Canvas, please click on the Help icon. You can search the Canvas guides, chat with Canvas support, or contact OU IT.
Course Objectives:
1. Facilitate your knowledge of the geographies of development targeting Indigenous peoples of Latin America.
2. Demonstrate the importance of understanding the historical and contemporary marginalization of Indigenous populations in Latin America.
3. Emphasize the cultural politics of socio-economic development policies.
4. Introduce you to the key actors driving Indigenous movements’ demands for culturally- and geographically-specific development strategies.

Course Outline:

Before First Day of Class
- Watch 1-hour video in which instructor introduces class
- Read & view as much of the assigned materials as possible
- Participate in canvas discussion board wherein everyone introduces themselves

Day One: Discussing pre-Columbian demography & development, why in 1992? (4/16)
5:30-7:30pm OK time on Zoom (2 hours) – lecture and discuss the following reading
7:30-9:30pm OK time on Canvas – discussion assignment related to reading

Everyone Reads

Choose two more article from this special issue to read:

Day Two: From Colonial to State Visions of Order (4/17)
9-11am OK time on Zoom (2 hours) – lecture and discuss the following reading
11am-2pm OK time - re-watch *The Mission* (1986)
2-4pm OK time on Zoom (2 hours) – share & discuss short clip from *The Mission*

Day Three: Indigenous Peoples and Revolutionary States (4/18)

1-2pm OK time on Zoom (2 hours) – lecture and discuss the following reading

2-5pm OK time on Canvas – discussion assignment related to reading and a selection of videos by Ojo de Agua

Day Four: Indigenous Movements—a look at Bolivia (4/23)

5:30-6:30pm OK time on Zoom (1 hour) – lecture and discuss the following reading

6:30-9:30pm re-watch También la Lluvia/Even the Rain (2010) and engage with Canvas discussion of film and readings

Day Five: Indigenous peoples, conservation & extractivism (4/24)

9-11am OK time on Zoom (2 hours) – lecture and discuss the following reading

11am-2pm OK time: re-watch Hija de la Laguna/Daughter of the Lake (2015)

2-4pm OK time on Zoom (2 hours) – share & discuss short clip from Hija de la Laguna/Daughter of the Lake


Day Six: Gendering neoliberalism (4/25)

1-2:30pm OK time on Zoom (2 hours) – discuss the following reading

3-5pm OK time on Canvas – discussion assignment related to reading and a selection of videos by Ojo de Agua


Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

Participation:

This class will operate as a pandemic-styled seminar and the quantity and quality of your participation will comprise a quarter of your grade for the course. So that our class meetings on Zoom and Canvas discussion are as engaging as possible, students are expected to have completed all reading materials and prepared a pair of observations regarding the readings and viewings (if possible, consider connections to other course materials), and at least two questions for each item read/viewed. This will help to assure enough material for a quality discussion in which everyone participates. Should contributing to class conversation make you uncomfortable, you will need to let me know from the get-go so that I may coordinate alternative arenas for discussion, such as short discussion papers. Kindly respect all participants’ perspectives and note that discriminatory behavior of any sort will not be tolerated.

Paper prepared prior to class:

Drawing on course materials, compose a 5-page paper that identifies and discusses some of the historical factors that have contributed to the extreme socio-economic, cultural, and political marginalization that Indigenous populations in Latin America face today. This paper also constitutes a quarter of your grade. Before writing your paper, be sure to read carefully the Writing Guide that will be posted to the Canvas site for this class.

Building blocks of your research paper’s preparation:

Upon completion of the class meetings, you will embark on the preparation of a research paper characterized by two assignments: 1) a paper proposal with annotated bibliography (due May 3), and 2) an outline (due May 10). These building blocks of your paper’s preparation comprise a quarter of your grade.

Paper prepared after class:

Building on lessons learned in this class, prepare a 15-20-page (double-spaced) paper that offers a geographically-specific examination of the cultural and environmental contours of contemporary
Indigenous politics in Latin America. This paper is also worth a quarter of your course grade. Be sure to use that Writing Guide.

**Grading:**

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Portion of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>All class sessions</td>
<td>1/4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prior-to-class Paper</td>
<td>Prior to class</td>
<td>1/4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building Blocks</td>
<td>May 3 and May 10</td>
<td>1/4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>May 24</td>
<td>1/4</td>
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**Notice:** Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc…in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc…; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at http://studentconduct.ou.edu/

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Adjustment for Pregnancy/Childbirth-Related Issues

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html.
Title IX Resources

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24/7, counseling services, mutual no-contact orders, scheduling adjustments, and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at smo@ou.edu or (405) 325-2215 (8-5), or the Sexual Assault Response Team at (405) 615-0013 (24/7) to report an incident. To learn more about Title IX, please visit the Institutional Equity Office’s website at http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo.html

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA
Laurel C. Smith, Ph.D.
http://laurel.oucreate.com/

Education

- Ph.D. Geography, University of Kentucky
- M.A. History of Science, University of Oklahoma
- B.A. History, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Current Positions

- Advanced Programs Professor since 2009
- Associate Professor in Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability, University of Oklahoma (2007-present)
- Affiliate Faculty Women’s and Gender Studies, University of Oklahoma
- Affiliate Faculty Film and Video Studies, University of Oklahoma

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

- GEOG 6220: Seminar in Human Geography: Critical Geopolitics
- GEOG 6220: Seminar in Resource and Environmental Geography: Indigenous Development in Latin America

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Teaching interests: political, cultural, and urban geography; studies of technoscience; critical theory (especially contemporary geographic thought); and qualitative research methodologies
- Research interests: geopolitics of representation, indigenous geographies and the cultural geographies of technoscience, the identity politics of development, postcolonial and feminist theory
  - Regional focus in North America, especially Mexico and the United States

Representative Publications and Presentations

Publications:


Presentations:
• Introducing (some) geographies of Indigenous videos produced in Oaxaca, Mexico. For International Symposium on Media and Indigenous Peoples: Appropriations, Negotiations and Resistances, Universidad Iberoamericana Puebla, Puebla, Mexico (November 2013)

• Mediating Indigenous Geographies. For the Oklahoma State University Geography Department’s Colloquium Series, Stillwater, Oklahoma (March 2013)

• Producendo saberes híbridos acerca de un video indígena. For the Encuentro Internacional “Saberes Híbridos” at the Centro Peninsular en Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales, UNAM and Escuela Superior de Artes de Yucatán, Mérida (September 2011)

• Mediating Indigenous geopolitics: a feminist inquiry into activism, advocacy, and access in Oaxaca, Mexico. For the ‘Género, Etnicidad y Migración’ workshop organized for the Colegio Internacional de Graduados: Entre Espacios at the Instituto de Estudios Latinoamericanos Freie Universität Berlin (February 2011)

**Representative Honors and Awards Received**

• University of Oklahoma Research Council Funding – Faculty Investment Program (FIP) Award for “Video Portraits of Tribal Environmental Professionals,” $14,888 (2018)

• Humanities Forum Fellowship for “Visualizing Cleaner Water,” $5,000 (2016)

• South Central Climate Science Center Research Grant (Lead-PI) for “Intertribal Workshops on Climate Variability and Change,” $55,407 (2012-2013)

• University of Oklahoma Research Council Funding -- Faculty Investment Program (FIP) Award for “Publishing in Spanish,” $2,420 (2012)

• Junior Faculty Research Award from University of Oklahoma Vice President for Research for “Visualizing Indigenous Women: Target Audience Reception of Indigenous Media in Oaxaca, Mexico,” $6,000 (2009)

• Ed Cline Faculty Development Awards from OU Faculty Senate, $2,500 for enriching collection of Indigenous videos (2009), and $1,892 for computer to use for intertribal workshops (2013)

• Presidential Travel Fellowship from OU, $1,200 to attend the Institute of British Geographers Annual Meeting in Manchester, England (2008)