Drug Wars & Oil Fortunes in Latin America: LAS 3930
University of Florida Spring 2019
Meeting Times: Tuesday 4:05-4:55 PM and Thursday 4:05-6:00PM
Location: Grinter Hall Room 376

Professor
Joel E. Correia, PhD
Email: joel.correia@latam.ufl.edu
Phone: 352-273-4708
Office: Grinter Hall Room 378
Office Hours: Thurs. 1:30-3:30 & by appointment.

Course Description
This course examines the historical, comparative, and current dynamics of two global commodities—illicit drugs and licit petroleum. We will study linkages between the Drug War, petroleum extractivism, and United States—Latin America relations to investigate how the presumably separate spheres of legal and illegal commodity exchange have become intertwined. Through case studies, popular media, and guest speakers, we will follow drugs and oil from their production and extraction in Latin America to their sale and consumption in the United States. In so doing, we will examine the social, environmental, and political impacts of these commodities with attention to state corruption, socio-environmental justice, and possible strategies for responding to the problems created by the production, circulation, and consumption of illicit drugs and licit oil in Latin America and the United States.

Format
This course is based on two in-person meetings per week that will be complemented by online discussions and activities hosted on the Canvas site. In-class meetings will be based on a mix of short lectures, small group activities, and discussion. Students are expected to attend class, participate in class activities, and be prepared to ask questions or talk about the assigned course materials—something that requires students to have done the pertinent readings and/or assignments before class. Video materials used to supplement course readings are integral, and should be treated as such. This syllabus provides a framework for the class but I strongly encourage you to put your own personal stamp on the course assignments and discussions.

Course Objectives and Ways to Accomplish Them
1. Communicate the basic history, evolution, and current issues shaping debates about illicit drug and licit oil production in Latin America.
2. Identify, describe, and explain how distinct histories and political contexts shape how the Drug War and oil production have impacted different sites in Latin America and shape contemporary perceptions of the region.
3. Explain: a) what environmental justice and political ecology are, b) how they can be used to critically evaluate relationships between environmental change and social justice, and c) how they might inform new avenues toward more socially and environmentally just policies.
4. Evaluate the links between the production of drugs and oil in Latin America, their circulation across the region, and eventual consumption in the United States, with attention to how social movements, non-governmental actors, and state agencies respond.
5. Compare similarities and differences in how illicit drugs and licit oil commodities shape society, politics, and the environment in specific sites in Latin America and the United States.
**Expected Learning Outcomes**

Following completion of this course students should be able to:

1. understand how the production, sale, policing, and consumption of illicit drugs and licit oil shapes society, politics, and the environment in Latin America and the United States.
2. use environmental justice and political ecology as frameworks to analyze and explain how commodity networks impact and connect Latin America and the United States.
3. differentiate different policy options Latin American countries have employed in relation to drugs and oil with regard to the U.S. role in shaping those policies.
4. explain how U.S. policies and consumer demand impact the production and global circulation of illicit drug and oil commodities through evaluation of case studies.
5. make connections between their (and their peers’) actions and the social, ecological, and political impacts of drugs and oil production in Latin America.

**What you can Expect from Joel**

1. Respect for your informed opinions.
2. Timely feedback on all assignments and email communications.
3. My commitment to your learning and fostering an inclusive learning environment.
4. That I will engage you as an adult and work to help you achieve your learning goals.
5. My sincere interest in your learning and support for what you hope to achieve in this class.

**Course Grading and Assignments**

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mapping Latin America and Commodity Circuits</strong></td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>You will create a map that identifies major geographic features in Latin America, then build the map over the course of the semester to follow the flow of illicit drugs and licit oil through the readings, course materials, and your research. Assignment guidelines are posted on Canvas.</td>
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<td><strong>Peer Survey on Perceptions of Drugs &amp; Oil</strong></td>
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<td>This assignment asks you to survey three of your peers to learn about their perceptions on drug and oil use. You will upload their responses without recording any names to ensure the privacy of the participants, but the idea is to better understand of how people feel about both of these commodities and their impacts on society and the environment. Specific details are uploaded to the course Canvas page.</td>
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<td><strong>Quizzes (5 @ 4% each)</strong></td>
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<td>Throughout the semester you will be asked to complete four online quizzes: 2 on the Drug War and 2 on oil issues. The quizzes will be administered through Canvas and will address course readings and in-class activities. Quizzes are open book, but must be taken without assistance or discussion with any other students.</td>
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<td><strong>Current Events Response Papers (4 @ 2.5% each)</strong></td>
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<td>Over the course of the semester you will write four short response papers (400-500 words) that discuss drugs (x2) and oil (x2) in current events, thus making links between class and the “real world.” Specific instructions are uploaded to the course Canvas page.</td>
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<td><strong>Mid-Term Exam (Take Home)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Final Exam (In-class)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Participation</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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Evaluation of Final Grades
Grades will be awarded as listed in the table below:

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<th>Score</th>
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More information on grading policies is here: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Required Texts
There is only one required book we will read during the semester. Students can choose to purchase the book, or access a digital copy for free through the UF Library website or course reserve page on Canvas.

  - Library link: https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/UFL/detail.action?docID=1725353

All other required readings listed in the Course Schedule (below) will available as PDF documents on the course Canvas page or accessible through URLs provided by the professor.

General Course Overview
This section of the syllabus provides a week-by-week synopsis of the course assignments, required readings, movies, etc. Please note that the most up-to-date version of course scheduling can be found on the Canvas page. If there is a discrepancy in the scheduling or listed reading, please follow what is posted on Canvas.

*Continued on next page.*
INTRODUCTION: Political Ecology, Environmental Justice, & Commodity Networks

WEEK 1: Course introduction, commodity chains, and consumerism
Jan. 8 (Tues): Drug Wars and Oil Fortunes Course Overview

Readings: No readings for today.

Assignment: Use the template provided on Canvas to survey three people about oil and drugs. Enter your results on the course Canvas site—follow the directions carefully.

**Due Wednesday, January 16th by 8:00 PM.

January 10 (Thurs): Commodity Chains and Consumers

Readings & Multimedia:
- Read brief overview of “Commodity Chains” on the Ejolt website: http://www.ejolt.org/2012/12/commodity-chains-2/
- Source Map—Visit the Open Source Map webpage, search for a product, brand or material, and explore the commodity chain shown on the site. Take notes of what you researched because we will discuss your findings in class. Website: https://open.sourcemap.com

In-class activity—Planet Money Makes a T-Shirt (http://apps.npr.org/tshirt/#/cotton) and how everything you wear ties your life to hundreds of other lives and many places across the world.

WEEK 2: Environmental Justice and Political Ecology at the Crossroads of Race and Drugs

January 15 (Tues.):

Readings:


January 17 (Thurs.): Race, Prohibition, and the Origins of a Trade

Assignment: Quiz #1.

Readings:

### PART I: Illicit Drugs—Production, Circulation, Regulation, and Militarization

#### WEEK 3: Drug consumption, international trade & beginning of the Drug War

**January 22 (Tues.): The War on Drugs**

**Assignment:** Latin America commodity chain map (Part 1) due.

**Readings:**
- Film: Frontline Video “Drug Wars Part 1”
  - Frontline: Thirty years of America’s drug war—a chronology:

**January 24 (Thurs.): Drug trafficking—evolution and efforts to suppress the flow**

**Readings:**

#### WEEK 4: Drugs and War in Colombia

**January 29 (Tues.): Plan Colombia, an Overview**

**Assignment:** Quiz #2.

**Readings:**
  - Film: Frontline Video “Drug Wars Part 2”

**January 31 (Thurs.): Plan Colombia, a Critical Study**

**Readings:**
Please review the entire webpage and explore the various links. We will have an in-class activity based on this information.

WEEK 5: Impacts of Plan Colombia—Social and Environmental (in)Justice

February 5 (Tues.): Paramilitaries and Coca

**Assignment:** Current events paper #1 due.

**Readings:**
- Film: “Plan Colombia: Cashing in on the Drug War Failure.” Link to film available on Canvas.

February 7 (Thurs.): Accumulation by Dispossession

**Readings:**
- In-class case study exercise. See information on Canvas about your group’s readings and questions to answer in advance of our class activity.

WEEK 6: Shifting Circuits of the Drug Trade, Northward to Central America

February 12 (Tues.): Narco-Deforestation

**Readings:**

February 14 (Thurs.)

**Assignment:** Current events paper #2 due.

**Readings:**

- **WEEK 7: The Drug War and/in México**

February 19 (Tues.): Mexico’s Drug War

**Assignment:** Quiz #3.

**Readings:**

February 21 (Thurs.): The Merida Initiative, “Plan Mexico”, and Organized Crime

Readings:

WEEK 8: Drugs and the Mexico-U.S. Border

February 26 (Tues.): Intersections Between Immigration and Drug War P/politics

Assignment: Post your questions about the midterm and what you think it should cover in the discussion section of our Canvas page.

Readings:

February 28 (Thurs.)

Readings:
  o Guidelines will be given out on February 26 for a mini-debate in class today.

*We will have a mini-review of the midterm during the second half of class today.

MIDTERM EXAM Due Sunday, March 3 2019 by 5:00 PM.

The exam will be “take-home,” meaning that you are free to use your notes, class lecture slides, and the readings to complete the exam but you must take the exam on your own. Working with anyone else on the exam will be considered cheating and dealt with per the University Honesty Policy. The format of the exam will include a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and 1-2 essay questions. Exams will be administered using the Canvas quiz function.
WEEK 9 (March 4-8) NO CLASS! Spring Break!

PART II: OIL & EXTRACTIVISM IN LATIN AMERICA

WEEK 10: From Drugs to Oil—Power and Politics

March 12 (Tues.): Introduction
  Readings:
  - Film: “Mexican oil and drug cartels: Cocaine and crude.” Vice News. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPEfArQU7tc

March 14 (Thurs.): The Power of Oil
  Readings:
  - Discuss peer-review survey results.

WEEK 11: Petrostates and Spectacular Wealth

March 19 (Tues.): Oil wealth and the Resource Curse
  Readings:

March 21 (Thurs.): Oil & Extractive Resources in Latin America
  Assignment: Quiz #4.
  Readings:

WEEK 12: Oil and Militarization in Latin America, Pipeline Politics

March 26 (Tues.): Policing Production...
  Assignment: Current events paper #3 due.
  Readings:

**March 28 (Thurs.): Pipelines and Putumayo**

**Readings:**

**WEEK 13: Social and Environmental Impacts**

*Professor Correia will be at a conference this week. We will not hold in-class meetings but will, instead, use Canvas for our class discussions and assignments this week. You will need to view Professor Correia’s lectures on Canvas, record your own responses to some questions, and participate in an online discussion. Specific instructions will be give out in class on March 28.*

**April 2 (Tues.): Unruly Engagements—Corporate Social Responsibility?**

**Assignment:** Quiz #5.

**Readings:**

**April 4 (Thurs.): Enclaves, Environmental Degradation, and Indigenous Resistance**

**Readings:**
WEEK 14: Ecuador and Oil

April 9 (Tues.): Contrapuntal geographies of oil
**Assignment:** Latin America commodity chain map (Part 2) due.

**Readings:**
- Bryan, J. 2017. The blood in your oil. (*Full citation to follow).*

- In class film: The living jungle: https://vimeo.com/149760357

April 11 (Thurs.): Sarayaku vs. Ecuador

**Readings:**
- Sarayaku Kichwa Indigenous Community vs. Ecuador
  - At the site, follow the links on the sidebar (right side of screen) and read the associated documents.
- Watch “Children of the Jaguar” before class: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ma1QSmtuiLQ

- In class debate and discussion about the Sarayaku Case.

WEEK 15: Corruption, Contradictions, and Creative Solutions

April 16 (Tues.): Combatting Corruption

**Assignment:** Current events paper #4 due.

**Readings:**

April 18 (Thurs.): Alternative Solutions? Yasuni ITT, Buen Vivir, Postextractivism

**Readings:**
- One more reading TBA.

WEEK 16: Final Exam Review

April 23 (Tues.): Final Exam Review & Last Day of Class!!
Readings:
- No readings—bring questions to class.

**EXAM WEEK April 27-May 3**
- Final exam date, time, and location to be announced per UF scheduling.

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**Important Course and University Policies**

**Late Assignments**
You are expected to turn in assignments on time. All late assignments will be subject to the following reduction of points: if turned in late but within 24 hours of the posted due date and time, the assignment will be docked 25% of the total possible points; 24-48 hours late will result in 50% loss of total points. No assignments will be accepted beyond 48 hours past the due date. **Quizzes and tests will not be accepted late.**

If an assignment deadline corresponds with a pre-approved absence in accordance with UF policy, please contact me in advance to reschedule.

**Absence and Class Participation Policy**

Attendance is important and required. Because the class requires a commitment to dialogue, absences and marginal participation will have a negative impact on student grades. Students are expected to arrive prepared and on time. Being late by 10 minutes or more will be counted as an absence. Every student is allowed one unexcused absence during the semester. Students will begin to lose 5% of their overall participation score for the second and third unexcused absences and after the fourth unexcused absence the student will be requested to meet with Dr. Correia and administrative action may be taken.

*Use of cellphones in class is prohibited and will result in a zero for participation, unless explicitly allowed for an in-class activity (see policy below).*

There are many ways to participate in this course and students are expected to come ready to engage the course materials. That means students are responsible for the readings and need to take part in class discussions and activities. *When doing so, please try to use specific course materials to “anchor” your thoughts and provide the rest of your peers and Professor with a common reference for discussion. Also, remember that active participation requires that you give others a chance to speak and that you listen to and consider their ideas.* Student participation is assessed daily, but participation grades will not be available until the end of the semester.

**Excused absences** are consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog ([https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx)) and require appropriate documentation. Students should arrange with Dr. Correia for makeup material, if circumstances allow it; the student will receive one week to prepare for any makeup assignment.
Course Communications

I will use University of Florida e-mail and the class Canvas site to communicate with students about the course. Therefore, students are responsible to regularly check their University of Florida e-mail accounts and the course Canvas page for updates and information. Please check the course Canvas site weekly (at a minimum) since it will be the primary means of out-of-class communication during the semester and where students will find activities, assignments, and information about any extra-credit.

If you would like to contact me about class, please do so at joel.correia@latam.ufl.edu.

To ensure I see your email and respond in a timely manner, all emails should begin with the following text in the subject line: LAS DWOF: (subject of email). Also, please use professional language to address and compose your emails. For example, starting an email with “Hey Joel” is not acceptable; instead, use a professional salutation. Feel free to call me Joel, however. I will try to reply to your message/questions as quickly as possible (usually within 24 hours), though may take up to 48 hours to do so depending upon when I receive your email.

Cellphone, Laptop, and Tablet Policy

Cell phones:
Unless explicitly stated otherwise for a class activity, cell phones should not be used during class. Please turn off or place your phone in airplane mode while in class. Use of cell phones during the class period will result in a “zero” participation grade for the day and you may be asked to leave the class if you use your cell phone, which equates an absence for the day.

Laptops and tablets:
While some learning styles are best served by using personal electronics such as laptops and tablets, these devices can be distracting to other learners (see: https://tinyurl.com/y979kugo and https://tinyurl.com/yd336qn9). Please respect your fellow classmates and only use laptops/tablets for course-related activity. **Note, using your laptop or tablet for anything but note taking (e.g. social media, shopping, etc.) during class will result in a “zero” participation grade for the day.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

The Honor Code (https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct/honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with Professor Correia.
Classroom Behavior Policy

To foster a positive learning environment, students and instructors have a shared responsibility. We want a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where each of us feels comfortable with each other and where we can challenge ourselves to succeed. To that end, our focus is on the tasks at hand and not on extraneous activities (e.g., texting, chatting, reading a newspaper, making phone calls, web surfing, etc.). Opinions held by other students should be respected, and conversations that do not contribute to the class/discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

Students are asked to refrain from disruptive conversations with people sitting around them during class. Students observed engaging in disruptive activity will be asked to cease this behavior. Those who continue to disrupt the class will be asked to leave lecture or discussion and may be reported to pertinent UF administrators.

Notification of Objectionable Materials

This course will occasionally contain material of a mature nature, which may include explicit language and/or depictions of violence. Please note that many readings and videos we watch may contain images or descriptions of events that some people may find disturbing. Students are not automatically excused from interacting with such materials, but they are encouraged to speak with the instructor to voice concerns and to provide feedback. Dr. Correia will try his best to let students know in advance of any objectionable material and find suitable alternatives to subject materials if necessary.

Subject to Change Statement

Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy may be subject to change with advance notice as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Student Accommodations

Students requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/.

Materials and Supplies Fees

Aside from the required texts, listed on this syllabus, all materials will be provided by Dr. Correia. There are no additional fees for this course.

Counseling and Wellness Center
Please reach out to the Counseling and Wellness Center if you need their services: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

*Your continued enrollment in this class on Tuesday, January 15 implies your agreement with the terms of this syllabus.*