

LATCRIT COLLOQUIUM AND CGC SUMMER PROGRAM:

THE STRUCTURE OF THE SUBSTANCE

The basic concept is to employ a combination of classes, lectures, roundtables, and field visits, organized around five general themes of study in ways that allow us to build on each as the program/colloquium unfolds through its “menu” of curricular or academic activities:

Theme One

Precolonial arrangements and colonial histories/legacies: present basics on pre-Columbian era and connect colonial past to present reality, explaining the how and why of the basic current status quo in light of the colonization experience and its neocolonial aftermath.

Theme Two

Historic and contemporary “minority” issues, and inter-group power relations: focus on in-group and out-group “identity” formations, and related sociopolitical issues in their historic and current local/regional contexts .

Theme Three

Economic control of society and wealth-identity distributions: identify the sources or pillars of economic wealth and control to interconnect the colonial past and its scheme of inter-group relations to the dominant economic policies and structural hierarchies of society in general.

Theme Four

Constitutional and legal systems, and how they enshrine historic biases based on colonial politics, postcolonial identity positions and economic subordination: map how legal rules, norms, processes and institutions reflect the colonial past and project its identity politics into the socioeconomic present, reinforcing the sociopolitical skews, systems and structures that we have studied on prior days.

Theme Five

Effects and prospects of globalization on local political, social, economic and legal arrangements: discuss how the process of corporate globalization has or has not taken hold locally and regionally, and what its effects are, or might be in the future, depending on global patterns and local particularities.

Obviously, these are just rough thoughts, requiring refinements such as a daily schedule (based on the Model Schedule included in the Project Proposal Overview). The basic idea, as indicated in the Model Schedule, is to combine a variety of learning activities and formats, including lots of interactive contact and exchanges/discussion with local folks and visits to relevant sites or institutions, to produce a fairly comprehensive yet focused and historically contextualized critical understanding of the social and legal situation of the host country. The “hands-on” immersion approach of the CGC/Colloquium events should allow students (and faculty) to have fun together as part of the study-abroad learning experience.