



**GBL 2981 Human Rights and Peace Building in Colombia (4 credits)**  
**Bogota and Medellin, Colombia**  
**June 14 to 26, 2020**

**Instructor**

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**Course description:**

This program is designed for undergraduate and graduate level students as well as young professionals who are committed to mutually beneficial international exchange, driven to learn about human rights and transitional justice, and interested in understanding the complexities of the Colombian context. Some Spanish language proficiency is encouraged. This year's delegation will be held in the capital city of Bogotá and the second largest city, Medellín. Delegates will have unique opportunities to meet with relevant government officials, community leaders, and other experts from around the country who present diverse perspectives on the country's history of violence and progress towards protecting human rights. The course will be set following a period of political change as the country elected a new national government in summer 2018.

Colombia is home to the longest-running war in the Americas. Colombia has been caught up in a complex internal conflict involving a range of actors, from communist guerillas to right-wing paramilitaries, that has left more than five million internally displaced persons (the second highest rate of forced displacement in the world), 220,000 homicides, 60,000 disappearances, almost 2,000 massacres, and more than 27,000 kidnappings. To counter this violence, Colombia has been at the forefront of many international human rights initiatives—it was one of the first countries to vote in favor of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 and included extensive human rights language in a new constitution in 1991. Over the years, government

and non-governmental groups have orchestrated a range of collective memory initiatives to trace the history of violence and promote the right to truth. This delegation will learn about both formal and informal historical memory projects to understand the Colombian conflict's origins, persistence, and impact on the country. Delegates will get an insider's view on challenging questions concerning how different accounts of past violence are being produced to protect human rights, pursue accountability, and promote peace in Colombia. This is an opportunity to see history in the making and visit a country implementing a groundbreaking peace deal.

### **Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this delegation, students will be able to:

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| 1) Explain the internal conflict in Colombia and its impact on the country. Delegates will be exposed to diverse perspectives on the origins of the violence and experience of victims, which will give them a deep understanding of Colombia's civil war.        |
| 2) Compare governmental and non-governmental initiatives to trace Colombia's history of conflict and promote the right to truth. Delegates will critically consider the social and political process involved in constructing a narrative of the violence         |
| 3) Discuss the peace process with the FARC and proposed transitional justice measures. The delegation will provide in-depth information about the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparations and Non-Repitition established to address victims' rights. |
| 4) Assemble information about groups working to protect human rights and promote peace in Colombia. Delegates will be encouraged to support peacebuilding initiatives beyond the delegation.  |

### **Readings:**

Recommended and required readings lists will be distributed prior to delegation start.

### **Assignments:**

#### **Attendance (25%)\***

Students are expected to arrive promptly for all GYC sessions and actively contribute to Podio discussions prior to the start of GYC Colombia.

While in-country, it is required that students attend all components of the Global Youth Connect program, including but not limited to, seminars, discussions and volunteering, and arrive at designated locations on time to depart for each scheduled activity.

**Online and in person engagement (25%)\***

Delegates must post assignments on Podio on the date due and regularly respond to the work of others on Podio. While in-country, delegates are expected to actively participate in all meetings with partner organizations and debriefing sessions and readily collaborate with fellow delegates. Both online and in person participation should be informed either by background reading of the organization or partner’s website or from active listening and engagement in the discussion. Students must be sensitive to Colombian culture in their interactions.

**Final Project Contributions (25%) – DUE ONE WEEK AFTER THE DELEGATION CLOSES**

Delegates must maintain a notebook, blog, and/or online archive of their experiences. At least 10 entries must be paid over the 14 day trip. They can reflect on the theme discussed and the site(s) visited as well as the discussion with Colombian peers, partner organizations, guides, guest speakers or others. Entries can take any number of forms (a poem, a video, a series of photos with explanations, etc.) but all entries must clearly articulate an active engagement with the themes and central questions of the program. Participants will submit their journals for the Final Project Report due no later than one week after the end of the delegation.

**Final Project (25%) – DUE ONE WEEK AFTER COURSE IS OVER**

Students must create an artifact of their time in Colombia (i.e. photo-journalism exhibit, short story, dramatic piece, song) on a topic that is relevant to the delegation and interesting to the particular delegate. These projects should be able to be shared with people on GYC social media platforms.

**Provisional Itinerary:**

*This itinerary is provisional and subject to change, but offers a template for our whereabouts and activities throughout the delegation.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Activities</b>
June 14th	Bogotá	Arrivals and GYC orientation

<p><b>June 15th to 21st</b></p>		<p><b>Workshops:</b>  Expectations and orientation  History of Colombian Conflict, Peace Processes &amp; Human Rights  Analysis of current political landscape</p> <p><b>Presentations (TBC):</b>  Defensoría del Pueblo,  Office of the High Commission for Peace, Presidential Council for Human Rights, UN Verification Mission for Peace Accords, AFRODES (Displaced Afrocolombian organization), CIJP (Inter-Ecclesial Commission for Justice and Peace), National Center for Historical Memory, Center for Peace, Memory, and Reconciliation, Dejusticia, CODHES, Peace Presence, Diakonia, Vidas Silenciadas, and the Kroc Institute</p> <p><b>Cultural activities:</b>  Graffiti tour, museum visits, trip to Monserrate, documentary screening</p>
<p><b>June 22nd</b></p>	<p>Bogotá – Medellín</p>	<p><i>Flight to Medellín</i></p>
<p><b>June 22nd -26th</b></p>	<p>Medellin</p>	<p><b>Workshops:</b>  Regional contextualization  Art therapy  Closing reflections</p> <p><b>Presentations (TBC):</b>  Poder Joven, Angeles de Medellín, Portafolio Verde, Fundación Empresas Públicas de Medellín, Agencia Para la Reincorporación y Normalización (ARN,) Universidad de Antioquia, Museo Casa de la Memoria, Casa Diversa, Comuna 8, Comité de Impulso de Acciones de Memoria Comuna 13</p> <p><b>Cultural Activities:</b>  Parque Arvi, Escaleras Electricas de la Comuna 13, group dinner</p>
<p><b>June 26th</b></p>	<p>Medellin</p>	<p>Closing processes and departures</p>