PUAF 798T: Sustainable Development, Environmental Policy, and Human Rights in Peru
March 11th-19th 2016 | Madre de Dios and Lima

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Course Description
Participants will study sustainable development policy challenges in Peru with a focus on the tensions between economic development, environmental well-being, and the protection of human rights, particularly those of indigenous peoples.

In the Amazonian Madre de Dios / Tambopata region – one of the most biodiverse regions in the world – we will stay at Posada Amazonas, a research-oriented eco-lodge co-owned and operated by the Ese’aja indigenous community of Infierno (Andean Colono and Ribereño people also comprise the community). We will study this cooperative arrangement of ecotourism as an example of employment-generating, environmentally-sound, and self-managed local development, a model challenged by large-scale resource exploitation moving further into the Amazon, particularly illegal gold mining, and the construction of the Interoceanic Highway, which cuts through the Amazon region. We will observe first-hand the natural richness of Peru’s Amazon rainforest and the efforts and challenges of Peruvians in seeking a development model consistent with the health of the natural environment.

In Lima, we will attend presentations and participate in discussions with leading experts and officials from government, civil society, and academia working on issues related to sustainable development, environmental policy, democracy and human rights.
Species diversity of birds, mammals, and amphibians
General Itinerary

10 March 2016: Departure date from US

11-15 March 2016: Puerto Maldonado and Posada Amazonas, Madre de Dios

15-19 March 2016: Lima

19 March 2016: Program end date

Course Requirements

Students will attend three pre-departure class meetings and actively participate in discussions on the course readings, the majority of which should be completed prior to departure.

While in Peru, students will be well-prepared for and participate in lecture-discussions and site visits and keep a daily journal about their experiences and reflections. Students will also actively contribute to the course Twitter account. In addition to these daily activities, students will also sign up for a blog post in the form of a brief analytical article for a general audience that ties your experience to policy issues. Blog posts will be posted online throughout the course.

Students should also start work on the post trip writing assignment:

A policy research paper (25-30 pages) that addresses a specific topic related to the course themes and to each student’s academic and professional interests. Students may employ either empirical methods or normative argument (or both) as they evaluate policy options and recommend the best option for confronting a problem related to the course themes.

After returning to the US, students will do additional readings and research for the completion of the papers. One post-trip meeting will be held, TBD. Students will discuss lessons learned and experiences from the trip and will give 2-3-minute presentations on their paper topics. The final version of the research paper, addressing class and instructor criticisms, will be due in May (TBD).

- Personal journal: 10%
- Blog post: 20%
- Course participation: 20% (this includes being well-prepared for in-country discussions and actively contributing to the course Twitter account)
- Final research paper: 50%

Tree frog, Madre de Dios. Photo: Hilde
Course Readings (to be updated in Spring 2016)

General Information on Peru
- State Department on Peru: http://www.state.gov/r/4120/35762.htm

Peru’s Culture and History
- Starn, et al. eds. 2005. The Peru Reader. Duke University Press. Read the chapters that begin with the following page numbers:
  - Part I: 50, 56, 82
  - Part II: 97, 119, 159, 169
  - Part III: 181, 207, 215
  - Part IV: 231, 235, 240, 253
  - Part V: 273, 279, 293, 305, 307, 309
  - Part VI: 325, 331, 343
  - Part VII: All
  - Part VIII: 411, 425, 438
  - Part IX: 445, 460, 474, 477
  - Part X: 485, 491, 512, 553

Ecotourism

Amazon Gold Mining
- Peru Support Group. 2012. Artisanal and small-scale mining in Peru: a blessing or a curse?
Peru’s Forest


Development and Human Rights


Note: Specific readings will be assigned prior to each pre-trip meeting.


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Tambopata River. Photo: Hilde
Sample Itinerary

DAY 1

Morning: Group flight over the Andes to the Amazon town of Puerto Maldonado, Madre de Dios – roughly three hours (via Cusco). Puerto Maldonado is a bustling tropical frontier town situated at the confluence of the Madre de Dios and Tambopata Rivers. Its principal activities are gold mining, Brazil nut collecting, timber extraction, agriculture and ecotourism.

Afternoon: Meeting at Peru field office of Amazon Conservation Association (Asociación para la Conservación de la Cuenca Amazónica - ACCA). Meeting with Asociación Huarayo. See bios further below.

DAY 2

Morning: We’ll travel along the Interoceanic Highway to a gold mining site, guided by Javier Gordillo. Then we will meet our Posada Amazonas guides. We will take a short trip to the Rainforest Expeditions office for snacks and to store any luggage that we will not need with us at the lodge. We will drive in mini-vans with our guides for about 45 minutes to the Infierno river port.

Boat to Posada Amazonas: During the 1-hour voyage by boat to the posada (lodge) we might see bird species typical of the river and forest edges such as: black skimmer, pied lapwing, capped heron, jabiru stork, roadside hawk, and several species of kingfishers, flycatchers, macaws, and parrots. We might also see animals such as capybara, turtles, and different species of monkeys.

Orientation and briefing on Posada Amazonas by posada staff and members of the Infierno community

Afternoon: jungle trek. The group will divide into two. We leave from Posada Amazonas and embark on a two-hour hike crowned by the largest tree in the vicinity: a giant ceiba tree. During the hike we will focus on the natural history of the rainforest and its principal taxonomic groups.

DAY 3

Morning:
The canopy tower: The scaffolding canopy tower is 30 meters tall (98 feet), rising above the forest canopy. We climb a banistered staircase to the platforms above. At the top, we have spectacular sunrise views of the vast expanses of standing forest with the Tambopata River winding through the middle. Now and then toucans, parrots or macaws fly past, or mixed species canopy flocks land in the treetops near us.

The clay lick: From a blind located about twenty meters away you will see dozens of parrots, macaws, and parakeets descend to ingest the clay on the river bank. Species such as mealy and yellow-headed amazons, blue-headed parrots and dusky-headed parakeets descend at this clay lick. The clay lick is active at dawn, late mornings, and mid-afternoons.

Afternoon/evening: discussion with posada guides on environmental, social and economic impacts of Posada Amazonas at a communal level.
Night: *Jungle hike*

**DAY 4**

**Morning: Très Chimbadas Oxbow lake.** We depart after breakfast. Fifteen minutes from Posada Amazonas by boat and a 30 minute walk will take us to the lake shore. From here we take a long raft ride looking for giant river otters, turtles, caiman, hoatzin, and wading birds. Piranhas!

**Afternoon: Ñape Ethnobotanical/Medicinal Garden.** The Centro Ñape is an Infierno community organization that produces medicines out of forest plants. A guide will take us along a trail explaining the different medicinal and other uses of some of the rainforest plants.

**DAY 5**

**Morning transfer: Posada Amazonas to Puerto Maldonado.** Departure by boat back to the city of Puerto Maldonado.

**Late morning: Flight to Lima**

**DAYS 6 - 8**

We spend the next four days of our trip in Lima. We will hear presentations and participate in several discussions with experts and officials from government, civil society, and academia working on issues related to sustainable development, environmental conservation, labor issues, democracy, and human rights. See page 9 for a tentative list of meetings.
Speakers (tentative)

Salomón Lerner Febres was the President of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Peru, which conducted its work in the wake of the war between the Peruvian government and the Shining Path, a war that claimed some 70,000 lives. Prof. Lerner is a philosopher who is currently Executive President of the Center for Democracy and Human Rights of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP). Prof. Lerner will discuss his work on human rights in Peru, particularly regarding marginalized peoples.

Richard Webb is Director of the Instituto del Perú at Universidad de San Martín de Porres in Lima, where we will meet. He is the former Head of the Central Bank of Peru (think Alan Greenspan), leading periods of strong economic growth. A widely respected thinker, he will talk about the larger economic context of Peru, its internal conflicts and place in the global economy, and what the future holds.

Fernando Villarán is former Minister of Labor of Peru and is currently President of SASE Consulting in Lima and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Management of the Antonio Ruiz de Montoya University. He has been working on the informal economy and how to diversify Peru’s economy so as to be less dependent on resource extractive industries such as timber, mining, and petroleum. He’ll discuss the basis of development in Peru.

José Hernández Samanez is a navy captain and Operation Officer on Peru’s Joint Staff. He leads anti-trafficking efforts in Peru. He will discuss Peru’s efforts to stop trafficking of drugs and illegal timber as well as illegal mining.

Susana Baca and Ricardo Pereira have invited us to their home in Lima. Ms. Baca is a Grammy Award-winning Afro-Peruvian singer and global legend of Latin American music. She was Minister of Culture of Peru for a brief time in Pres. Humala’s early government. She was also President of the Commission of Culture of the Organization of American States (OAS). We will discuss the situation of marginalized peoples in Peruvian culture and society and other socio-cultural challenges in Peru.
**Miguel Santillana** is a distinguished environmental economics and policy expert at the Instituto del Perú, Universidad de San Martín de Porres. We will visit the Institute and discuss with Dr. Santillana the issues of the role of the extractive resources industries in Peru’s economy, environmental protection and sustainable development, and mining concessions and local land tenure rights in Peru.

**Kurt Holle** is a conservation and ecotourism entrepreneur who founded Rainforest Expeditions in Peru in the 1990s. Holle works with local communities, ensuring sustainable business practices and forest conservation. He also is the Co-Founder of Deep in Forest, an investment network of 11 native communities and entrepreneurs designed to scale businesses that are working with communities and their forests. He was recently named Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2013 by the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship. Here’s a recent piece on Kurt and Rainforest Expeditions from *The Guardian*: [http://bit.ly/13nzSgn](http://bit.ly/13nzSgn).

**Félix Reátegui** is Director of Sociological Research at la Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP) and a member of the Institute of Ethics and Development of Universidad Antonio Ruiz de Montoya. We will visit him at the Center for Democracy and Human Rights at PUCP. Working with Salomón Lerner, Reátegui was Final Report Coordinator on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2001-2003), which documented the war between the Peruvian government and the Shining Path, a war that claimed more than 70,000 lives.

**Ana Lucia Hurtado Abad** is a sociologist, specializing in gender. She is the Executive Director of Asociación Huarayo. She has worked in the Amazonian region of Madre de Dios since 1997, and currently is in charge of the “Albergue Juvenil de Mazuko,” a temporary refuge for children and adolescents who have become victims of human trafficking. In 2012, she was named by One World Action in their series of “One Hundred Women: The Unseen Powerful Women Who Change the World.”

**Oscar Gustavo Guadalupe Zevallos** is a sociologist, specializing in childhood and the environment. He is the founder and Director of Asociación Huarayo. He also represents the Association in the Consortium of Madre de Dios, which works to develop the Peruvian Amazon in a framework of responsible environmental management, bringing together private and public entities from Peru, the U.S., and Brazil. He is a local producer of documentary films about the environment and human rights. He also writes publications on social issues, particularly the mistreatment of people in the Peruvian Amazon.

**Juan Loja**, Associate Director of the Amazon Conservation Association, has over 15 years of experience working with communities, sustainable livelihoods, and conservation projects in the Amazon region, where he has worked and consulted for
Caritas and Conservation International, among others. He also served as a professor of Forestry Science and the Environment at the National University of San Antonio Abad of Cusco. Juan is a biologist by training. Juan oversees all ACA/ACCA projects implemented within the Madre de Dios department and serves as a liaison with the regional government.

**Javier Gordillo** is a researcher and consultant on ecotourism who has worked with the indigenous community of Infierno and Rainforest Expeditions for many years. Javier will talk to us about natural resource exploitation in the Amazon region. He will also guide us through the illegal gold mining areas in Madre de Dios. Javier has been a good friend of the Peru course since 2011. He also makes one of the best salsas on the planet, made from the native Amazonian aji pepper.

**Rachel Tennant** is Program and Grants Associate at Amazon Conservation Association. After taking the Peru policy course in 2011, she served as Assistant Director to Prof. Hilde on the course in 2012 and 2013. She also researched Amazonian sustainable development (global ecotourism trends, indigenous development in Peru, and the socio-environmental impacts of mining) as the focus of her MPP-CONS degrees at UMD. She has worked with three Peruvian sustainable development organizations as a conservation and development researcher and consultant. She has also worked at the EPA’s Office of Water. We’ll meet with Rachel at ACA’s offices before our trip to Peru to discuss their work in Madre de Dios.

**Other possible meetings:**
- **Susana Villarán**, former Mayor of Lima
- **Manuel Pulgar-Vidal**, Minister of the Environment
- **Alberto Pizango**, President of AIDESEP (Peru’s Amazonian indigenous peoples’ organization)
- **National Association of Mining, Oil, and Energy (SNMPE)**