

**The University of Texas at Dallas
School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences**

**SOC 3336.001 Culture Regions – Brazil
Spring 2012**

**Time: Wednesday/Friday 10:00-11:15am
Classroom: SOM 2.903**

Instructor: Rubia Valente, M.S.

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Office Hours: Wednesday/Friday 1:30pm - 2:30pm and by appointment

General Course Information

This course is an introduction to Brazilian culture and society. Attention is given to history, geography, cinema, literature, art and issues of race, gender, social inequality, and behavior as they lead toward a fuller understanding of Brazil. This course will cover major aspects of Brazilian society. The main texts review significant events and forces that have helped shape Brazil today. A variety of films and videos will be used. Course will be taught in English.

Required Textbooks:

The Brazilians by Joseph Page

The Brazil Reader: History, Culture and Politics by Robert Levine and John Crocitti.

Child of the Dark – the diary of Carolina Maria de Jesus

Dreaming Equality: Color, Race and Racism in Urban Brazil by Robin Sheriff

Additional Text Material:

Brazil: True Stories of Life on the Road (eLearning)

The Brazilian People by Darcy Ribeiro (eLearning).

Corruption and Politics in Latin America by Stephen Morris and Charles Blake (eLearning)

The Brazilian Puzzle by David Hess and Roberto DaMatta (eLearning)

Primary course reading will be assigned from required textbooks. Note that all textbooks are available on reserve at McDermott Library's. All other additional text material will be posted on eLearning.

Course Objective

This course is designed to help students become aware of geo-socio-political conditions as well as various cultural expressions of contemporary Brazil.

Complementary course goals are to practice and refine discussion, research, writing, and oral presentation skills. This class will be conducted as a seminar, which means that everyone will be expected to actively participate in discussions. Students must stay current on readings and be ready to contribute to class discussion.

Course Requirements

Class attendance is required. Participation will be evaluated and factored into the final grade. It is every student’s obligation to consult the course eLearning several times a week for course updates, extra readings and other announcements.

The first 10 minutes of class will be designated for current events – every week students should find a news article from Brazil and be ready to discuss it in class (e.g. Folha.com, The New York Times or The Telegraph). This will count towards your participation grade.

Presentation: Each student will be expected to give a class presentation on a topic of interest during the final week of class, and to submit a paper on that topic (Topics need to be approved). Students can work in groups, if they choose to.

One Page Critical Reaction Papers: Students must write **4 out of a possible 10** assigned one-page critical reaction papers. These are meant to ignite discussion of the week’s readings and to help students organize their thoughts for participation in class- a key component of this class. Students should attempt to engage with the readings critically, and frame and discuss key issues addressed in the readings. These critical reaction papers are due on the day of the specific reading, and students should be prepared to discuss the ideas in their papers with the class.

Exams: Students will have an essay-type midterm and final exam.

Written Assignment: There will be a total of **5 written assignments** of varying scope, including films review, book review and the topic chosen by the students. More detail will be given in class.

Extra-Credit: Come see me.

Graded Activities:

Critical Reaction Papers	10%
Written Reviews	20%
Participation	10%
Midterm	25%
Presentation	10%
Final Exam	25%

Grading Scale:

Min	Max	Grade	Min	Max	Grade	Min	Max	Grade
93.0	100.0	A	80.0	82.9	B-	67.0	69.9	D+
90.0	92.9	A-	77.0	79.9	C+	63.0	66.0	D
87.0	89.9	B+	73.0	76.9	C	60.0	62.9	D-
83.0	86.9	B	70.0	72.9	C-	0.00	59.9	F

Course Outline (subject to revisions and changes - to be announced in class or eLearning)

Week 1 Jan. 18 Introduction to the course.

Jan. 20 Topic: Introducing Brazil

Readings: *The Brazilians*, pp. 1-31 (Introducing Brazil); *The Brazil Reader*, pp. 1-9; Article: *Brazil and the USA: What do we have in Common? Dreaming Equality* (Introduction), *Brazil's Giddy Convergence*, New York Times.

Short Films: **Brazil's Rising** (60 minutes)

Week 2 Jan. 25 Topic: The Portuguese

Readings: *The Brazilians*, pp. 22-56 (The Portuguese); *Five Centuries of Change*, pp. 5-27; *The Brazil Reader*, pp. 56-57, (Decree Elevating Brazil to a Kingdom). *Family and Frontier in Colonial Brazil: Santana de Parnaiba 1580-1822*.

Jan. 27 Topic: The Indians

Readings: *The Brazilians*, pp. 85-99 (The Indians); *The Brazil Reader*, pp. 11-14 (Origins, Conquest and Colonial Rule), pp. 20-24 (Noble Savages), pp. 25-32 (A Description of the Tupinamba) pp. 43-44, (The Sins of Maranhao), pp 432- 435 (The History of the Huni Kui People) and pp.436-440 (Urban Indians). *Brazil's Indians and the Onslaught of Civilization*, (Setting the Scene) pp. 14-24 and (In Search of the Other) pp. 25-47. Additional: *The Brazilians*, pp. 291-318 (The Amazon Basin); *Brazil 100 Years* (Amazonia)

Critical Reaction Paper #1

Week 3 Feb. 1 Topic: The Immigrants

Readings: *The Brazilians*, pp. 100-117(The Immigrants); *The Brazil Reader*, pp. 190-194 (Rural Life); pp. 110-112 (City of Mist), pp. 374-378 (Immigrant Ethnicity in Brazil).

Feb. 3 Topic: The Africans

Readings: *The Brazilians*, pp. 57-84 (The Africans); *The Brazil Reader*, pp. 76-86 (A Paraiba Plantation), pp. 121-130 (Slavery and its Aftermath), pp. 131-134 (Slave Life at Morro Velho Mine), pp.135-137 (Scenes from the Slave Trade), pp. 138-142 (Cruelty to Slaves), pp. 143-144 (Slavery and Society), pp. 145-146 (Abolition Decree), pp. 146-147 (Laws Regulating Beggars in Minas Gerais); *Dreaming Equality* Chapter 1. Schwartz, *The Slaves' View of Slavery*, and *Children of God's Fire*.

Critical Reaction Paper #2

Week 4 Feb. 8 Topic: Race Issues

Film: ***Black in Latin America - Brazil: a Racial Paradise?***

Readings: *Dreaming Equality* Chapters 2, 3 4 and 5. *The Brazilian People* – (National Destiny) and (Assimilation or Segregation.)

Feb. 10 Topic: Race Issues

Readings: Race Issues – *The Brazil Reader*, pp. 351-353 (Race and Ethnic Relations), pp. 354-358 (A letter from Brazil), pp. 359-364 (Growing up Black in Minas Gerais), pp. 367-373 (Brazil: Study in Black, Brown and Beige), pp. 379-381 (The Myth of Racial Democracy), pp.384-385 (The Church tries to combat Prejudice), pp. 386-390 (What Color are you?), pp. 391-394 (Mixed Blood). *The Brazilian People*, pp. 146-158 (Class, Color and Prejudice). *Dreaming Equality*, Chapter 6.

Critical Reaction Paper #3

Week 5 Feb. 15 Topic: Education and Black Movement

Readings: *Brazil since 1985*, pp. 269-287 (Education Reform in Brazil under Democracy). *Democratic Brazil Revised*, pp. 209-230 (Afro-Brazilian Politics: White Supremacy, Black Struggle and Affirmative Action). The Social Construction of Democracy (Black Mobilization in Brazil) and NYT Article: *Racial Quotas in Brazil Touch Off Fierce Debate*. *Dreaming Equality* Chapters 7 and 8.

Feb. 17 Topic: The Haves

Readings: *The Brazilians*, pp. 121-53 (The Haves); DaMatta, *Do you know who you are talking to? The Distinction between individual and Person in Brazil*.

Movie Review Due – Black in Latin America Critical Reaction Paper #4

Week 6 Feb. 22 Topic: The Have-Nots, Poverty, Inequality

Readings: *The Brazilians*, pp. 177-200 (The Have-Nots). *The Brazilian Puzzle*, pp.114-133 (Morality and Transgression Among Brazilian Poor Families: Exploring the Ambiguities). *The Brazil Reader* (The Reality of the Brazilian Countryside Landless Movement (MST) pp. 264-267. *The Brazilian People*, (Chaotic Urbanization) pp. 136 -145. Perlman, *Catacumba*.

Feb. 24 Topic: Media/Novelas

Readings: *The Brazilians*, pp. 154-76 (Controlling Brazilian Minds); pp. 444-65 (The *Telenovela*), *Brazil Since 1985*, pp.289-313 (Mass Media and Politics in Democratic Brazil).

Politics of Representation: Television in a Sao Paulo Favela, Vibrant 1(1-2) 2004.

Critical Reaction Paper #5

Week 7 Feb. 29 Topic: Poverty/Art/Culture

Film: *Waste Land*

Readings: Child of the Dark

March 2 Topic: Poverty/Art/Culture

Film: Finish *Waste Land*

Readings: **Child of the Dark – Book Review Due**, *The Brazil Reader* pp. 319-322 (The Children Always had Milk), pp. 441-446 (Mayor Orders Billboard Shacks Destroyed). *Democratic Brazil Revisited*, Redemocratization view from Below.

Week 8 March 7 Review for Midterm

March 9 **Midterm**

Movie Review Due – Waste Land

Week 9 Happy Spring Break!

No Classes: March 14 and 16

Week 10 March 21 Topic: Violence and Public Security

Film: Elite Squat – The Enemy Within

March 23 Topic: Violence and Public Security

Film: cont. Elite Squat – The Enemy Within

Readings: *The Brazilians*, pp. 229-75 (The Culture of Brutality and Suffer the Little Children); *The Brazil Reader*, pp. 277-279 (A letter from Brazil), pp. 420-422 (Voices from the Pavement), pp. 423-429 (Pixote's Fate), pp. 430-431 (A letter to President Cardoso); *TT* (Young, Down and Out); *Brazil Since 1985*, pp. 242-250 (Coping with the Crisis: Improving Police Action in Brazil). NYT Barrionuevo, *In Rio Slum, Armed Militia Replaces Drug Gang's Criminality with its Own*.

Critical Reaction Paper #6

Week 11 March 28 Topic: Politics and Corruption

Reading: *Corruption and Politics in Latin America*, (Corruption as Harmless as *jeitinho* or threat to democracy?) Chapter 4. *The Brazil Reader* pp. 295-297 (Is Brazil Hopelessly Corrupt?), *Democratic Brazil Revisited*, (Quality of Elections).

March 30 Topic: Politics / Lula

Readings: *The Brazil Reader* pp. 59-62 (Imperial and Republican Brazil), pp. 149-155 (The Vargas Era), pp.186-188 (New Year's Address), pp. 222-224 (Varga's Suicide Letter), pp. 225-230 (Seeking Democracy and Equity), pp. 289-294 (Fernando Cardoso: Theory and Practice), pp. 402-407 (How Brazil Works). *The Brazilians*, pp. 201-25 (Lula and the Workers' Party); *Democratic Brazil Revisited*, pp.15-32 (The Partido dos Trabalhadores: Still a Party of the Left?)

Movie Review Due: Elite Squat
Critical Reaction Paper #7 (Group A)

Week 12 April 4 Topic: Culture, Identity, and Core Values

Readings: Core Values, Education and Democracy. *Democratic Brazil Revisited*, pp. 233-256, (Core Values, Education, and Democracy: An Empirical Tour of DaMatta's Brazil), *The Brazilian Puzzle*, pp. 35-47 (The Brazilian Jeitinho: An Exercise in National Identity).

April 6 Topic: Religion

Readings: *The Brazilians*, pp. 321-50 (Roman Catholicism), pp. 351-70 (The *Orixás*), pp. 371-83 (Evangelicals on the Move); *TT* (My Night of Candomblé and A Close Encounter) and *TT* (In Search of Miracles); *The Brazil Reader* pp. 331-333 (A Healer's Story), pp. 462-467 (Liberation Theology Rise and Fall).

Critical Reaction Paper #8

Week 13 April 11 Topic: Women Lives / Family Structure

Readings: *Brazil Five Centuries of Change* pp. 203- 208 (Changes Affecting Women); Patai, *Brazilian Women Speak* and Melo Carvalho, M.L, *The Daily Lives of Women in Minas Gerais*.

April 13 Topic: Gender/Body/Sexuality

Short Film: HIV Winning Against AIDS Documentary

Readings: *Responding to Aids in Brazil: the very early years* pp. 145-186, *Producing Beauty in Brazil, The Body as Capital: Understanding Brazilian Culture*, Vibrant, (6), 2009. *Gringos and Natives: gender and sexuality in the context of international sex tourism in Fortaleza, Brazil*, Vibrant, 1(1-2), 2004:87-114. **Critical Reaction Paper #9**

Week 14 April 18 Topic: Land of Carnival/Music

Readings: *The Brazilians*, pp. 466-85 (In the Land of Carnival); *TT* (Simply Irresistible, Opium of the People); *The Brazil Reader*, pp.241-247 (Tropicalism and Brazilian Popular Music), pp. 474-482 (The Invention of Tradition on Brazilian Radio), pp. 483-486 (Bahia Music Story), pp.

487- 489 (O Axe de Zumbi), *The Brazilian Puzzle*, pp. 159-179 (Tupi or Not Tupi MPB: Popular Music and Identity in Brazil).

April 20 Topic: Soccer

Readings: *The Brazilians*, pp. 387-411 (Soccer Madness); *TT* (Maracanã Whiz); Leite Lopes, *Transformations in National Identity through Football in Brazil: Lessons from Two Historical Defeats*,” Rohter, *Tropical Lifestyle – Soccer. The Brazil Reader* pp. 497-504 (Two Essays on Sports). *Sport in Society* by DaMatta.

Critical Reaction Paper #10

Week 15 April 25 Topics: Brazil’s Heroes

Readings: *The Brazilians*, pp. 412-43 (The Lesser Gods: Brazil's Heroes); *TT* (A Thou on the Dog, A Walk in the Forest); *The Brazil Reader* (Xuxa and the Televisual Imaginary, pp. 343-47)

April 27 Topic: Future of Brazil/ Doing Business in Brazil

Reading: *The Brazilians*, pp.486-498 (Whither Brazil?), *Brazil Imagined*, pp.274-297 (Land of the Future), *Doing Business in Brazil*.

Short Films: **Rags to Riches and City of the Dreams**

Week 16 May 2 Presentations

May 4 Presentations

Presentation Paper Due

Week 17 **May 11** **Final Exam**

Late policy: Written work and oral presentations are due on specified dates, and special arrangements for late exams will be allowed only for reasons of personal health or family emergencies. Written work will be accepted up to 1 hour late without penalty. It will be accepted up to 24 hours late with the penalty of a lowered letter grade. Beyond 24 hours late, I will not accept any work.

Technology policy: Technology both within and outside the classroom should enable your learning experience, not hinder it. Cell phones are to be turned off during our class. You will not need a computer for this class, but I do understand that some students prefer to take notes on theirs. If this is your case, you must sit in the front row.

University Policies

Information on university policies related to this and other classes may be found at <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>

Academic Integrity:

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Dallas that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.