



# Portuguese 3340: Cultures of Brazil



**Term:** Fall 2020

**Professor:** Dr. Adam Demaray

**Days/times:** MW 1:30-2:50pm

**e-mail:** [andemaray@utep.edu](mailto:andemaray@utep.edu)

(expect a response within 24 hours max.)

**Office Hours:** By appointment

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

*Cultures of Brazil* (PORT 3340) provides an interdisciplinary, critical introduction to Brazilian culture, history and society. The course is structured primarily around themes rather than chronology so that each week provides the opportunity to consider key distinctions or developments within the broader history of Brazil. In this course, we will use short texts, films, music, short stories, and more to explore and examine how Brazil came to be the diverse, dynamic, and troubled place that it is today.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of *Cultures of Brazil*, students should be:

- familiar with the most important historical and cultural aspects of Brazilian society.
- familiar with various canonical works of Brazilian literature, film, music and scholarship.
- capable of contextualizing key events and ideas related to Brazil within broader trends and debates in the country.
- capable of analyzing examples of written fiction and non-fiction, film, and music in order to identify important themes and concepts as they relate to Brazilian history and culture.
- capable of explaining their knowledge and/or analyses of Brazilian history and culture to others in a clear, well-reasoned manner.

## **REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY AND MATERIALS:**

- A functioning computer or tablet, with Microsoft Word or Apple Pages installed. (All readings will be provided in PDF format on Blackboard.)
- Internet access capable of supporting live streaming of video and audio. (Videos, songs and other multimedia materials will be posted on Blackboard or provided as links.)
- A functioning camera and microphone for participating in live Zoom class sessions

## **GENERAL COURSE STRUCTURE:**

### **Weekly activities:**

1. Weekly course material and discussion questions—to be completed at home before class; each student will be responsible for approx. 5-8 questions and write a 2-4 sentence response for each
2. Weekly student-created questions—minimum 1 per student, posted to Blackboard before Monday's class
3. Online Zoom class discussions and activities—Monday and Wednesday (attendance mandatory)

### **Other activities:**

1. Mini-essays / presentations—3 total throughout the semester
2. Mid-term Exam—written exam on October 19
3. Final Exam—written exam during Finals Week

It is important to pay attention to the type of material we will study each week since a film, for example, cannot be consumed the same way as a short story. Students should plan to spend a total of 2-3 hours on weekly activities. On weeks when a student has chosen to complete a short essay or presentation as well, s/he should budget additional time accordingly.

Please note: all assignments listed above (and described in detail below) are mandatory. Failure to complete any activity fully and on time will significantly affect your final grade. Failure to complete three or more weeks of discussion board postings may result in removal from the course.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS:**

If you require accommodations based on a disability or other special circumstances, please communicate with the professor as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#).

### **COURSE CONTENT AND REQUIREMENTS:**

#### **Course material and discussion questions:**

On our Blackboard page, you will find folders containing each week's course materials. Course material may include short readings, films, online videos, or music. When necessary, videos will be subtitled and music will include written lyrics.

#### **Discussion question sheet:**

For each week of class, you will find on Blackboard a Word document with discussion questions to be used the following week. These questions are meant to help guide you as you read/watch/listen to that week's material. Each student will typically be responsible for 5-8 questions and write a 2-4 sentence response for each, demonstrating their comprehension and consideration of the question. The questions that appear on the mid-term and final exam will be very similar to those on the discussion question sheets.

#### **Attendance and participation:**

*Cultures of Brazil* is primarily a seminar course, which means most classes will center around group discussion and exploration of that week's topic. Students are required to attend all live Zoom classes and actively participate in all discussions, exercises, and assignments. You should come to class with all the homework for that day completed, and be prepared to answer questions on the assigned materials.

Attendance is essential. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed—contact a classmate and/or your professor. If you must miss class due to a serious emergency or illness, you should communicate as soon as possible with the professor so that you can make arrangements in order to not fall behind in the class. Students who miss more than three total classes over the course of the semester, will lose five points from their attendance/participation grade for each additional absence. Although technical difficulties may sometimes happen, you should do everything possible to log into our Zoom classroom on time. Students who regularly log in more than a couple

minutes late will lose points for attendance. According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies, “When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of ‘W’ before the course drop deadline and with a grade of ‘F’ after the course drop deadline.” See academic regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of excuse absences.

There is no make-up of missed class work, quizzes, or presentations. Students who miss more than 5 class periods risk being dropped from the course. Talk to your instructor about any attendance problems.

### **Student-created questions / thoughts / responses:**

*Before Monday’s class*, each student must post a question or thought to consider on our course’s Blackboard forum. Your question should relate directly to that week’s material (reading, film, etc.). It can be a question about something you did not understand. It can also be a question or idea that you think would make for a good class discussion. We will not be able to use everyone’s questions or ideas every week, but the professor will use them regularly to drive the class discussion. Your response will also allow the professor to see that you finished the material and have considered it thoughtfully before arriving to class.

Your question/thought/response should be:

- Open-ended—Your question should *not* have a simple factual answer (ex: “What year did the Portuguese arrive in Brazil?”) or a simple yes-no answer. Focus on questions of *how* and *why* instead of *who / what / where / when*.
- Original—Do not ask a question that is the same as one you would find on the professor’s question sheet. Do not ask the same question as one of your classmates (*you are responsible for reading your classmate’s questions before posting yours to make sure you do not repeat their ideas*).
- Connected to that week’s material—You are absolutely encouraged to make connections to the bigger themes that we discuss, to material from previous weeks, or to your own experiences and knowledge. However, the main focus of your question/idea should be one or more piece of material from that week. For example, if we are discussing the military dictatorship that began in the 1960s, it does not make sense to talk about Brazilian hip-hop from the 2000s (but asking about protest songs recorded in the 1960s *does* make sense).

### **Mini-essays / presentations:**

Three times over the course of the semester each student will choose a topic that is of greater interest to them in order to write a 3 page, double-spaced essay in which they develop and defend an argument related to their chosen topic. Students should find and utilize at least 3 legitimate outside, academic sources to help explain their argument. Mini-essays can be a way to explore more in depth a topic that is new to you or one that is already of personal and/or academic interest to you. The professor will give more detailed instructions and examples during the first week of class. On the day that mini-essays are due, each student will give a short presentation of their work in class. It is not necessary to prepare a formal Powerpoint, but showing relevant images or playing a short video/song/etc. is highly encouraged.

**Mid-term and final exams:**

Twice during the semester, students will complete a written exam on the material covered up to that point. Exam questions will require some short answer (1-2 sentences) and some long answer (3-4 paragraphs) responses. Although students will occasionally be asked to learn an important name or date, exams will primarily test students' understanding of important ideas, debates and developments in Brazilian history and culture.

**GRADING CRITERIA:**

Attendance and participation	15%	Mini-essays / presentations (3)	30%
Weekly question/idea (14)	5%	Mid-term exam (1)	20%
Discussion question sheet (14)	10%	Final Exam (1)	20%

**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:****Class atmosphere and behavior:**

Students are expected to demonstrate respect and consideration for each other, the professor, and the course material. Each student will undoubtedly bring their own unique viewpoints, analyses, and ways of explaining their ideas. In this type of course, we are less concerned with finding the “right” or “best” interpretation of a given topic, and more concerned with exploring the topic from different angles and understanding its nuance.

Disagreements and heated discussions can be valuable part of the learning process, provided that they are respectful and based on thoughtful analysis of the material. Inappropriate comments, personal criticisms and the like will negatively impact your participation grade and may result in referral for disciplinary action from the university.

**Academic integrity:**

All work for this course must be your own. For the short essays / presentations you will be using course materials as well as outside sources. Any outside source that you use must be fully and correctly cited according to MLA style. Using language or ideas from another person or source without citing them is considered plagiarism and is a serious violation of academic honesty.

In discussion board posts, you are encouraged to include direct quotes (and page numbers if relevant) when you make reference to a particular part of a text, song, etc. However, because discussion board posts are informal reflections on a piece of material provided by the professor, you do not need to use a formal citation style when writing them.

For more information, please consult official UTEP policies on “Academic Integrity and Scholastic Dishonesty” found here: <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>

**Accommodations:**

This course has been structured to allow students to engage with material in a variety of ways, with the hope of accommodating a range of learning styles. Any student who may require additional accommodations should communicate immediately with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and

Support Services (CASS). The professor, student, and staff at CASS can then work together to determine the most appropriate and effective accommodations. Should any further needs or issues arise, students should communicate with the professor as soon as possible in order to address them.

**\*Attention:** The assignments, policies and schedule outlined in this syllabus are subject to change. Students are responsible for acquainting themselves with any modifications instituted by the professor. Not being familiar with changes to the syllabus or course requirements does not constitute an excuse for late or missed assignments.

**COURSE CALENDAR:**

**WEEK 1**

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
Aug 24	<b>“For the English to See” : Myths and Realities</b>	Syllabus  Songs: Ary Barroso - “Aquarela do Brasil” , Jorge Ben - “País Tropical”
Aug 26		Book chapter: Reid, Michael - “The Brazilian Way of Life”  Book chapter (selection): Novinger, Tracy - “Jeito as Worldview”

**WEEK 2**

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
Aug 31	<b>Colonization and Slavery</b>	Book chapter: Novinger, Tracy - “A Capsule of History”  Video: “Brazil-An Inconvenient History”  Song: Ney Lopes - “Lundu chorado”
Sept 2		Short story: Machado de Assis, JM - “Father versus Mother”

**WEEK 3**

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
Sept 7	<b>Brazilian Music: Creation Through Conflict</b>	<i>Labor Day — No class</i>
Sept 9		Video: “A Vida no Ritmo”  Songs: Student selected

**WEEK 4**

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
Sept 14	<b>Deconstructing and Debunking Brazil’s “Racial Democracy”</b>	Book chapter: Viotti da Costa, Emilia - “The Myth of Racial Democracy”
Sept 16		Articles: <i>Brazil Reader</i> - selected essays on race

**WEEK 5**

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
Sept 21	<b>Views of the Northeast and Rural Society</b>	Poetry: Cabral de Melo Neto, João - selected poems  Fiction: Ramos, Graciliano - “A New Home”, “The Dog”, “Flight” (from <i>Barren Lives</i> )
Sept 23		Short story: Guimarães Rosa, João - “The Third Bank of the River”

**WEEK 6**

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
Sept 28	<b>Brazilian Religions: Mixture and Tension</b>	Videos: YouTube Videos on Candomblé  Film: <i>Keeper of Promises</i>
Sept 30		Book chapter: McCann, Bryan - “The Pentecostal Boom”

**WEEK 7**

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
Oct 5	<b>The Role of Culture and Race in Modernization Projects</b>	<b>*Mini-essay / presentation #1</b>
Oct 7		Book chapter (selection): Leu, Lorraine - "Race, Ethnicity, and Urbanization(selection)  Article: Paranhos, Adalberto - "Dissonant Voices Under a Regime of Order-Unity"  Songs: Sambas in Paranhos article

**WEEK 8**

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
Oct 12	<b>The Invention of Brasília</b>	Videos: YouTube shorts on Brasilia  Selections from book: Holston, James - <i>The Modernist City</i>
Oct 14		Essay: Lispector, Clarice - "Brasília : 5 Days"

**WEEK 9**

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
Oct 19		<b>*MIDTERM EXAM*</b>
Oct 21	<b>Scenes of Modern Brazilian Life</b>	Short story: Nery, Adalgisa - "Premeditated Coincidence"  Short story: Lispector, Clarice - "Remnants of Carnival"

**WEEK 10**

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
Oct 26	<b>Hill vs. Asphalt: Favelas, Periphery, and Insurgent Communities</b>	Podcast: Brazil Unfiltered - “A Look Inside Rio's Favelas”  Selection from book: Holston, James - “New Foundations of Rights” (from <i>Insurgent Citizenship</i> )
Oct 28		Film: <i>Bus 174</i>

**WEEK 11**

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
Nov 2	<b>Dictatorship and Resistance</b>	Book chapter: Reid, Michael - “The Long Dictatorship”  Book chapter: Dávila, Jerry - “Brazil: The Long Road Back”  Songs: Chico Buarque - “Cálice” , “Apesar de você”
Nov 4		<b>*Mini-essay / presentation #2</b>

**WEEK 12**

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
Nov 9	<b>The Beautiful Game: What Futebol Can and Can't Do</b>	Film: <i>The Year My Parents Went on Vacation</i>  Article: Shirts, Matthew. “Socrates, Corinthians, and Democracy”
Nov 11		Book Chapter: Goldblatt, David - “Magic and Dreams are Dead” (Ch. 6 from <i>Futebol Nation</i> )  Book chapter: Bocketti, Gregg - “Epilogue” ( <i>The Invention of the Beautiful Game</i> )



**WEEK 13**

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
Nov 16	<b>Preservation and Peril: Indigenous Communities and the Environment</b>	Film: <i>Rubber Jungle</i> (documentary)  Podcast: Brazil Unfiltered - “The Economics, Ecology and Politics of Brazil’s Rainforest”
Nov 18		Book chapters: Warren, Jonathan - “Introduction” and “Posttraditional Indians”  Article: Boyer, Veronique - “The Demand for Recognition and Access to Citizenship: Ethnic Labelling and Territorial Restructuring in Brazil”

**WEEK 14**

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
Nov 23		<b>*Mini-essay / presentation #3</b>
Nov 25	<b>Disorder and Progress? : Politics and Protest in Present Day Brazil</b>	TBD

**WEEK 15**

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
Nov 30	<b>Disorder and Progress? : Politics and Protest in Present Day Brazil</b>	TBD
Dec 2	<b>Final Thoughts and Exam Review</b>	

**FINAL EXAM:**