



Portuguese 3340: Cultures of Brazil



Term: Spring 2019

Professor: Dr. Adam Demaray

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

Location: UGLC 340

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(expect a response within 24 hours max.)

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Office Hours: 12:00-1:20pm,
or 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 criticism.
- 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 MATERIALS:

- A three-ring binder, at least 1.5" thick, with 15 dividers for weekly readings and notes.
- All readings will be provided in PDF format on Blackboard. Students are responsible for printing readings prior to the day we discuss them (unless otherwise instructed).
- Videos, songs and other multimedia materials will be posted on Blackboard or provided as hyperlinks (to YouTube, etc.).

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 3-5 questions and write a 4-5 sentence response for each
2. Discussion board postings—1 original post per week, 1 response post per week (minimum)
3. In-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, in-class exam on March 13
3. Final Exam—written exam on May 15

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.

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:

Every Wednesday the professor will give students a sheet 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 be responsible for 3-5 questions and write a 4-5 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. Students should also come to class with their own thoughtful questions and comments for us to consider.

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 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. More than two unexcused absences will result in the loss of 10 points on the final participation grade for each day missed. Official university business and certifiable illness are the only types of excusable absences. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed—contact a classmate and/or your professor.

Please keep in mind that arriving more than five minutes late to class two times equals one unexcused absence. 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.

Discussion board:

The discussion board primarily serves as a way for students to begin exploring and sharing ideas about the course material. Each week, you will write at least 2 posts.

By Saturday night (12:00am MST) each week, unless otherwise noted, you should have:

- read/watched/listened to at least one piece of material for the following Tuesday’s class.
- written a 1 paragraph response (5-8 sentences) engaging with one of that week’s discussion questions.

By Sunday (12:00am MST) each week, unless otherwise noted, you should have:

- written a 1 paragraph response (5-8 sentences) to at least one classmate, thoughtfully engaging with their ideas or questions.

As the main goal of the discussion board is the open exchange of ideas and first impressions, your posts will be graded simply as “Complete/Incomplete.” Posts that receive a grade of “Incomplete” will only be those that are missing, late, off-topic, or of insufficient length.

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 Powerpoint, but showing 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 (1-2 paragraphs) responses. Although students will be 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	20%	Mini-essays / presentations (3)	30%
Discussion board (14)	10%	Mid-term exam (1)	20%
Discussion question sheet (14)	10%	Final Exam (1)	20%

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:**Classroom and online behavior:**

In class and in discussion board postings, 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
January 23	“For the English to See” : Myths and Realities	Syllabus

WEEK 2

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
January 28	Colonization and Slavery	Book chapter: Schultz, Kara D - "History" (<i>Brazil</i>) Video: Brazil—An Inconvenient History
January 30		Short story: Machado de Assis, JM. "Father versus Mother"

WEEK 3

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
February 4	Deconstructing and Debunking Brazil's "Racial Democracy"	Book chapter: Viotti da Costa, Emilia. "The Myth of Racial Democracy" Article: Levine, Robert. "How Brazil Works"
February 6		Articles: <i>Brazil Reader</i> - selected essays on race

WEEK 4

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
February 11	The Northeast and Rural Society	*Mini-essay / presentation #1
February 13		Poetry: Cabral de Melo Neto, João—selected poems Fiction: Ramos, Graciliano. "A New Home", "The Dog", "Flight" (from <i>Vidas secas</i>)

WEEK 5

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
February 18	Brazilian Religions: Mixture and Tension	Film: <i>Keeper of Promises</i>
February 20		Book chapter: McCann, Bryan. "The Pentecostal Boom"

WEEK 6

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
February 25	The New State and the Invention of Brasilia	Book chapter: Davila, Jerry. “Myth and Memory”
February 27		Videos: YouTube shorts on Brasilia Book chapter: Holston, James— <i>The Modernist City</i> (selections) Essay: Lispector, Clarice. “Brasília : 5 Days”

WEEK 7

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
March 4	Brazilian Music: Creation Through Conflict	*Mini-essay / presentation #2
March 6		Article: Paranhos, Adalberto. “Dissonant Voices Under a Regime of Order-Unity”

WEEK 8

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
March 11	Brazilian Music: Creation Through Conflict	Selection from book chapter: Luhning, Angel. “Music” (<i>Brazil</i>) Songs: Student selected
March 13		*MIDTERM EXAM*

WEEK 9

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
March 18	<i>Spring Break</i>	
March 20	<i>Spring Break</i>	

WEEK 10

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
March 25	Scenes of Modern, Brazilian Life	Film: <i>Bus 174</i>
March 27		Short story: Lispector, Clarice. "Love" Short story: Guidice, Victor. "The File Cabinet"

WEEK 11

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
April 1	Hill vs. Asphalt: Favelas, Periphery, and Insurgent Communities	Selection from book chapter: Holston, James. "New Foundations of Rights". <i>Insurgent Citizenship</i>
April 3		*Mini-essay / presentation #3

WEEK 12

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
April 8	Dictatorship and Resistance	Book chapter: Dávila, Jerry. <i>Dictatorship in South America</i> (Chapter 2)
April 10		Book chapter: Dávila, Jerry. <i>Dictatorship in South America</i> (Chapter 6)

WEEK 13

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
April 15	The Beautiful Game: What Futebol Can and Can't Do	Film: <i>The Year My Parents Went on Vacation</i> Book chapter: Goldblatt, David. "Introduction: The Curious Rise of the Futebol Nation"
April 17		Article: Shirts, Matthew. "Socrates, Corinthians, and Democracy" Book chapter: Goldblatt, David. "Copa das Manifestações: Civil War in the Futebol Nation"

WEEK 14

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
April 22	Preservation and Peril: Indigenous Communities and the Environment	Film: <i>Rubber Jungle</i> (documentary) Book chapters: Warren, Jonathan W. "Introduction" and "Posttraditional Indians"
April 24		Article: Boyer, Veronique. "The Demand for Recognition and Access to Citizenship: Ethnic Labelling and Territorial Restructuring in Brazil"

WEEK 15

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
April 29	Disorder and Progress? : Politics and Protest in the Present Day	Book chapter (selections): Caldeira, Teresa. "The Implosion of Modern Public Life". <i>City of Walls</i> Podcast: Planet Money. "How Four Drinking Buddies Saved Brazil"
May 1		Essay: DaMatta, Roberto. "Is Brazil Hopelessly Corrupt?" Podcast: Avelar, Idelber. "Tumult and Temer" (Radio New Zealand) Article: Waldron, Travis. "Brazil Is About to Show the World How a Modern Democracy Collapses"

WEEK 16

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIALS
May 6	Final Thoughts and Exam Review	
May 8		

FINAL EXAM: May 15 (4:00 - 6:45pm)