

Portuguese 3355: Conversational Portuguese

Days/times: TR 10:30-11:50am

Office: Liberal Arts Bldg. 215

Location: Miners Hall 300

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Office Hours: TR 12:00-1:30pm
or by appointment

Course Description:

Conversational Portuguese is designed to develop students' linguistic proficiency through the exploration of contemporary Brazilian culture in a wide range of forms. Although we will read various texts and some assignments will require writing, the primary focus will be on strengthening students' ability to understand and produce spoken Portuguese. As such, the course will be conducted entirely in Portuguese and students are expected to use only Portuguese when in class. We will utilize a wide range of cultural material, including theater, film, music, short stories, and articles as the basis for class discussions and individual or group presentations. This material will also introduce students to some of the more important and fascinating aspects of Brazilian history and society. A portion of each class will be dedicated to reviewing key language and grammar points; however, the majority of class time and assignments are geared toward improving listening and speaking skills through extensive practice and a range of activities. Students who wish to enroll must either pass Intermediate Portuguese (PORT 2302) or speak to the professor ahead of time to demonstrate that they have a sufficient linguistic foundation.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of Conversational Portuguese, students should be able to:

- Understand spoken and written Portuguese from a wide range of sources: film, music, literature, and non-fiction prose.
- Elaborate both spontaneous and pre-prepared ideas in a coherent way, using complete sentences and paragraphs.
- Comfortably and correctly employ basic grammatical structures to express thoughts and ideas on a range of topics; use more advanced grammatical structures with minimal difficulty or hesitation.
- Be familiar with key themes in Brazilian culture and society.
- Engage analytically and creatively with Brazilian culture/society, including drawing parallels and distinctions with their own.

Required Materials:

- One three-ring binder, at least 1” thick, with at least three dividers and blank paper for taking notes.
- All readings, videos, music, etc. will be provided to students by the professor or posted to Blackboard.

Course Requirements:

Video/Film: The professor will show required videos or films during class time. If a student misses class on one of those days, it is their responsibility to watch what they have missed outside of class. The professor may or may not be able to provide easy access to the material, so students should make every effort to watch the material in class.

Printed material: Texts posted to Blackboard will be in the form of PDFs and students will be responsible for printing them and adding them to their binder.

Attendance and Participation:

Class time is essential in order to improve your Portuguese communication skills. Students are therefore required to attend all classes, and actively participate in all classroom activities. Being prepared for class means arriving on time, having that days materials, having completed any assignments for that day, and having reviewed material from the previous class. Because the primary goal of this class is to develop Portuguese listening and speaking skills, a significant portion of your final grade will depend on active class participation. You should make every effort to only communicate in Portuguese. Excessive use of English or Spanish in class will lower your participation grade.

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. Three tardies are equivalent to one absence. Remember that being late to class not only reduces your opportunities to learn, but also hurt your professor’s and classmates’ ability to maximize class time for Portuguese study. The professor has the right to drop you from the class if you miss more than 6 days of class or if you are consistently late.

If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed. Contact a classmate or the professor and consult the syllabus and Blackboard. An absence is not an extension or excuse for turning an assignment in late.

Class Presentations and Discussions:

Most class periods, at least half our time will be dedicated to student-led discussions of that week’s topic and works. The first week of class, each student will sign up to present on two different days during the semester. On those days, in addition to watching, reading or listening to the assigned material, pairs of students will give brief presentations on what they felt were the

most important and/or fascinating aspects of the material. They will then lead the class discussion by posing questions or ideas for the class to debate.

Individual Presentation: Midway through the semester, students will give a more formal, individual presentation to the class. The topic will relate to the material that the class has been discussing, but will also incorporate each student's own perspective and creativity. The professor will provide more detailed instructions 1-2 weeks in advance.

Skits:

During the semester, the class will watch the television series *3%* and read the canonical play *Auto da Compadecida*. After each one, students will work in groups to create an "extra" or "alternative" scene consistent with the tone and characters established by the original work. Groups will then perform their scenes for their classmates. Memorizing one's lines is mandatory; incorporating costumes, props, etc. is optional but highly encouraged in order to bring your brilliant creation to life.

Language Worksheets:

Each week the professor will provide the students with a worksheet or packet that includes a review of an important (and/or advanced) Portuguese language concept. Because students will have completed the basic Portuguese language series, these worksheets will help students hone and perfect their existing skills, while also introducing them to vocabulary and grammar structures not covered in Portuguese 1 and 2. During the first 10-15 minutes of Tuesday's class, we will review that week's language topics, students can ask questions, and we will examine where or how we see that week's language topic in the works that we are discussing.

Final Debate:

At the end of the semester, the class will choose two topics that we have analyzed in class, and which lend themselves to further research and debate. The class will then divide into 2-4 groups, with each group developing a number of arguments and perspectives to bring to one of the two topics. Students should use academically and/or journalistically legitimate sources to learn about their topic more in depth. Each group will prepare a handout for the class highlighting the most important things they have learned and their point of view toward issues surrounding that topic. During the last week of class, we will hold a debate on each of the two topics chosen by the class. Those not participating in a given debate will nevertheless be expected to follow along and participate by asking questions.

Campus Classroom Behavior Policy:

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty has the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions.

Cell phones and any other electronic devices must be turned off during class unless otherwise instructed.

Final Grade:

Attendance / Participation	25%
Pair Presentations (2)	12%
Individual Presentation	8%
Skits (2)	20%
Language Worksheets	15%
Final Debate	20%

***Attention:** The schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change by the professor. 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.

PROGRAMA:

SEMANA	TEMA	TAREFA
1 (16 e 18 de janeiro)	Introduction & Syllabus Leitura: - “Uma galinha” (Clarice Lispector) - “Ideias do canário” (Machado de Assis)	- Leituras - Fazer “Folha de prática 1”
2 (23 e 25 de janeiro)	Leituras: - Discurso de Frankfurt (Luiz Ruffato) - “As mulheres que dizem não” (Eliane Brum)	- Leituras - Apresentações de: - Fazer “Folha de prática 2”
3 (30 de janeiro e 1 de fevereiro)	Filme: - 3% - capítulos 1 e 2	- Apresentações de: - Fazer “Folha de prática 3”

4 (6 e 8 de fevereiro)	Filme: - 3% - capítulos 3 e 4	- Apresentações de: - Fazer “Folha de prática 4”
5 (13 e 15 de fevereiro)	Filme: - 3% - capítulos 5 e 6	- Apresentações de: - Fazer “Folha de prática 5”
6 (20 e 22 de fevereiro)	Filme: - 3% - capítulos 7 e 8	- Prepare “Esquete 1” - Apresentações de: - Fazer “Folha de prática 6”
7 (27 de fevereiro e 1 de março)	Leituras: - “O arquiteto” (Bernardo Carvalho) *Esquete 1	- Prepare “Esquete 1” - Leitura - Fazer “Folha de prática 7”
8 (6 e 8 de março)	Leituras: - “A cerca” , “Vale quanto sonha” (Sérgio Vaz) *Apresentação individual	- Prepare “Apresentação individual” - Leituras - Fazer “Folha de prática 8”
9 (13 e 15 de março)	FÉRIAS DE PRIMAVERA	
10 (20 e 22 de março)	Leitura: - <i>Auto da Compadecida</i> (Ariano Suassuna)	- Leitura - Apresentações de: - Fazer “Folha de prática 9 e 10”
11 (27 e 29 de março)	Leitura: - <i>Auto da Compadecida</i> (Ariano Suassuna)	- Leitura - Apresentações de: - Fazer “Folha de prática 11”

<p>12 (3 e 5 de abril)</p>	<p>Leitura: - <i>Auto da Compadecida</i> (Ariano Suassuna)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leitura - Apresentações de: - Fazer “Folha de prática 12”
<p>13 (10 e 12 de abril)</p>	<p>Leitura: - <i>Auto da Compadecida</i> (Ariano Suassuna)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leitura - Prepare “Esquete 2” - Apresentações de: - Fazer “Folha de prática 13”
<p>14 (17 e 19 de abril)</p>	<p>Filme: - <i>Auto da Compadecida</i> *Esquete 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare “Esquete 2” - Fazer “Folha de prática 14”
<p>15 24 e 26 de abril)</p>	<p>Filme: - Esquetes de <i>Porta dos Fundos</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare para o debate - Fazer “Folha de prática 15”
<p>16 (1 e 3 de maio)</p>	<p>*Debate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare para o debate