

# Portuguese 3355: Conversational Portuguese

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

**Office:** Liberal Arts Bldg. 215

**Location:** Classroom Bldg. 201

**Office Phone:** (915) 747-7025

**Professor:** Dr. Adam Demaray

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**Office Hours:** TR 12:00 - 1:20pm  
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 short stories, theater, film, and music as the basis for class discussions and individual or group presentations. This material will also introduce students to various important and fascinating aspects of Brazilian history and society. Depending on the needs of the students, a portion of class time may 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.

## Course Objectives:

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

- Understand spoken and written Portuguese from a wide range of sources: literature, film, and music.
- 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, worksheets, etc. will be provided to students by the professor or posted to Blackboard.

**Course Requirements:**

**Video/Film:** The professor will show required 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 day's materials, and having completed any assignments for that day. 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.

*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.*

**Worksheets:**

Each week the professor will provide the students with a worksheet related to that week's material (story, film, vocabulary, grammar, etc.). The professor may collect worksheets and give feedback, or simply check in class that students have completed them. However, students should always complete the entire worksheet to the best of their ability and bring it to class on the day that it is due.

**Short Presentations / 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, one student 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.

**Long 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:**

At two points during the semester, students will work in groups to create a scene based on a film and/or text that the class has studied. 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. The professor will provide more detailed instructions 1-2 weeks in advance.

**Final Debate:**

At the end of the semester, the class will choose one or two topics that we have analyzed in class, and which lend themselves to further research and debate. The class will then divide into two groups, with each group developing a number of arguments and perspectives to bring to the topic. Students should find legitimate academic or journalistic sources to learn about their topic more in depth before the debate. 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 the topic(s) chosen by the class.

**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	24%
Worksheets (14)	14%
Short Presentations/Discussions (2)	14%
Long Presentation	8%
Skits (2)	20%
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:**

<b>SEMANA</b>	<b>TEMA</b>	<b>TAREFA</b>
<b>1</b> (21 e 23 de janeiro)	<b>Apresentações e syllabus</b>  <b>Leitura:</b> - “Conversa de viagem” (Rubem Mauro Machado)	- Fazer “Folha 1”
<b>2</b> (28 e 30 de janeiro)	<b>Leitura:</b> - “A máquina extraviada” (José J. Veiga) - “O homem nu” (Fernando Sabino)  <b>Filme:</b> - <i>Central do Brasil</i>	- Fazer “Folha 2”
<b>3</b> (4 e 6 de fevereiro)	<b>Filme:</b> - <i>Central do Brasil</i>	- Apresentação de: - Fazer “Folha 3”
<b>4</b> (11 e 13 de fevereiro)	<b>Leitura:</b> - “Terrorismo literário” (Ferrez) - “Manifesto periférico” (Sérgio Vaz)	- Apresentação de: - Fazer “Folha 4”
<b>5</b> (18 e 20 de fevereiro)	<b>Leitura:</b> - “Cemitério clandestino” (Ana Paula Maia) - “O condomínio” (Luis Fernando Veríssimo)	- Apresentação de: - Fazer “Folha 5”
<b>6</b> (25 e 27 de fevereiro)	<b>Filme:</b> - <i>O som ao redor</i>	- Prepare “Esquete 1” - Apresentação de: - Fazer “Folha 6”
<b>7</b> (3 e 5 de março)	<b>Filme:</b> - <i>O som ao redor</i>  <b>Leitura:</b> - “A quinta história” (Clarice Lispector)  <b>*Apresentação individual</b>	- Prepare “Esquete 1” - Fazer “Folha 7”

<p><b>8</b> (10 e 12 de março)</p>	<p><b>Leitura:</b> - “Conto (não conto)” (Sérgio Sant’Anna)  <b>*Esquete 1</b></p>	<p>- Prepare “Apresentação individual”  - Fazer “Folha 8”</p>
<p><b>9</b> (17 e 19 de março)</p>	<p><b>FÉRIAS DE PRIMAVERA</b></p>	
<p><b>10</b> (24 e 26 de março)</p>	<p><b>Leitura:</b> - <i>Auto da Compadecida</i> (Ariano Suassuna)</p>	<p>- Apresentação de:  - Fazer “Folha 9”</p>
<p><b>11</b> (31 de março e 2 de abril)</p>	<p><b>Leitura:</b> - <i>Auto da Compadecida</i> (Ariano Suassuna)</p>	<p>- Apresentação de:  - Fazer “Folha 10”</p>
<p><b>12</b> (7 e 9 de abril)</p>	<p><b>Leitura:</b> - <i>Auto da Compadecida</i> (Ariano Suassuna)</p>	<p>- Apresentação de:  - Fazer “Folha 11”</p>
<p><b>13</b> (14 e 16 de abril)</p>	<p><b>Leitura:</b> - <i>Auto da Compadecida</i> (Ariano Suassuna)</p>	<p>- Prepare “Esquete 2”  - Apresentação de:  - Fazer “Folha 12”</p>
<p><b>14</b> (21 e 23 de abril)</p>	<p><b>Filme:</b> - <i>Auto da Compadecida</i>  <b>*Esquete 2</b></p>	<p>- Prepare “Esquete 2”  - Fazer “Folha 13”</p>
<p><b>15</b> (28 e 30 de abril)</p>	<p><b>Leitura:</b> - “O arquiteto” (Bernardo Carvalho)</p>	<p>- Prepare para o debate  - Fazer “Folha 14”</p>
<p><b>16</b> (5 e 7 de maio)</p>	<p><b>*Debate</b></p>	