

Peoples of Brazil
ANT4336/ANG5336/LAS4935/LAS6938
Fall 2017

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Tu: 8 **AND 13**; Th: 8-9 **MAT 05**
Office Hours: W 2-4 p.m., by appt

Course Description:

This course takes a look at the peoples of Brazil through the history, culture, and contemporary issues facing Latin America's most populous nation. Brazil is often characterized as a land of contrasts—between rich and poor; urban and rural; black and white, sacred and profane—a depiction that, though partly accurate, is insufficient. To speak of a country as massive as Brazil in terms of simple dichotomies is to ignore the inherent diversity that exists between, and outside of, these binary categories. In this course, we will cover the institutions, ideologies, and groups that coexist in seemingly contradictory fashion, paying close attention to the tensions generated by these contrasts. The course will conclude with coverage of recent developments in Brazilian society, from its recent rise in global prominence to its current turmoil on account of social, political, and economic tensions. After a brief historical overview, we examine Brazil primarily through anthropological texts and news media analyses. Throughout, we will attend to race, class, and gender as inequalities that are important dimensions for understanding social life and communities. Rather than cover these only as separate from the rest of the course content, our study of these constructs will be embedded throughout the semester.

Course Format:

The course will consist primarily of lectures and discussions, drawing upon shared readings and films. Occasionally, we will have guest lecturers presenting (TBD). When this happens, you will have an additional brief reading to help contextualize the guest's topic.

Course Objectives: Students will:

- ❖ Gain a broad introduction to Brazil, its people, and customs through an anthropological lens
 - ❖ Discern how structure and agency impact and disrupt Brazilian life through the interplay of hegemonic discourses and grassroots resistance
 - ❖ Critique the roles of ideologies and stereotypes about national subjects, race, class, and gender
 - ❖ Improve their competence in international and social studies
- Additional FOR GRAD STUDENTS:
- ❖ Engage critically with scholarly dialogue on globalization, neoliberalism, and national subjects

Texts and Readings:

All reading is to be done prior to class for the day it is listed.

❖ **Required Texts:**

Skidmore, Thomas: *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change* (DO NOT BUY: PDF provided in Canvas)

Caldeira, Teresa: *City of Walls: Crime, Segregation, and Citizenship in São Paulo*

Goldstein, Donna: *Laughter Out of Place: Race, Class, Violence, and Sexuality in a Rio Shantytown*

❖ **Additional Readings:**

Supplemental readings will be posted in Canvas or sent as links through announcements.

Course Evaluation:**All students****Attendance and participation:**

Each student is expected to attend class regularly and participate actively in discussions. Students will be called on to summarize readings and/or provide questions for discussion. As a seminar, discussions are an integral part of the learning process. These will take place both in regular meetings and in formalized Discussion Cafés*. Discussion Cafés are semi-structured small group discussions around certain themes. Prior to each, students will be asked to prepare a short assignment and develop discussion questions **that tie the topic to other course material**. Unannounced quizzes also count as part of your attendance and participation grade. **Please note*: one of the discussion cafés requires you to attend at least 3 Latin America/Caribbean/Latinx-focused academic or cultural events. Attendance at each event must be documented with an **event attendance form** within 48 hours of the event. Events take place throughout the semester and will be regularly announced through Canvas and in class. As I am not able to provide an exhaustive list of events, students are encouraged to find events of interest and obtain the instructor's approval. Failure to complete the attendance form within the required time will affect your grade.

Discussion Lead with News Briefs: To foster an active discussion environment, each week, 1 or 2 students will be asked to share relevant news items (1 each) to the Brazil, providing a brief summary and rationale for selection, including if and how it relates to or dialogues with the reading, and propose discussion questions to the class. News items must be from **no earlier** than 2015 and do not have to be about Latin America per se. Guidelines will be posted on Canvas.

Undergraduates only:

Exams: There will be two in-class exams (non-cumulative) to assess content assimilation.

Grassroots Showcase: In consultation with the instructor, undergraduates will select an issue and a grassroots response (can include a social movement or NGO) to present to the class. These mini-presentations (10-12 min) will tie the issue and response to broader class themes. One per student, no duplicates.

Graduate students only:

Reading Group: Graduate students will meet outside of class six times for 90-minute reading groups with in-depth discussion and analysis. Once during the semester each of you is expected to select a reading relevant to your mini-lecture topic and to facilitate the reading group discussion on that reading.

Final Project: Graduate students will select a research topic pertaining to Brazil and prepare a mini-lecture (25-30 minutes) to be presented to the class as well as a short paper (6-8 pages). Mini-lectures differ from presentations as they must place the topic within the broader framework of the course overall. Papers must have at least six academic sources, at least one of which must be a book or monograph.

Undergraduates:

Attendance and participation:	20%
Discussion Lead:	10%
Exams:	50%
Grassroots Showcase:	20%
Total:	100%

Graduates:

Attendance and participation:	20%
Discussion Lead:	10%
Reading Group:	20%
Term Project:	50%
Total:	100%

Grading Scale:

There are no "minus" grades

A 90-100 **B+** 85-89 **B** 80-84 **C+** 75-79 **C** 70-74 **D+** 65-69 **D** 60-64 **E** 59 and below

COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION: Being present and engaged count as an important part of your grade. During the class time, students have the instructor's undivided attention. The same is expected in return. It will be impossible for you to get an "A" if you are repeatedly absent or disengaged from the course. A 2-point penalty is assessed for each absence after one unexcused absence. Students who are absent are still responsible for the material.

TARDINESS: Tardiness is extremely distracting. If you must arrive late or leave early, please do so very quietly. No extra time shall be allotted to complete exams or quizzes if you are late. Chronic tardiness will count as absences: after the third tardy arrival, students will be marked 25% absent for each subsequent tardy. Four tardies will accumulate into one unexcused absence.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT FORMAT: All written assignments are due by the beginning of the class period on which they are due. Discussion Café prep assignments are **HARD COPY:** printed and brought to class.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

Discussion Café preps and Discussion Leads will not be accepted late. Any presentation (Grassroots/Grad student) may be rescheduled with **advance notice** provided there is time on the class schedule. Failure to obtain **prior** approval for rescheduling these may result in a "0" for that portion of the grade. **GRADUATES:** Term papers can have a 48-hour extension upon request. After that, they will lose a full letter grade for each day it is late.

EXTRA CREDIT: Students may earn up to 2 extra points on their final average by making relevant posts to Latin America on social media, tagging our Center, and submitting a screenshot to the Extra Credit tab on Canvas. Possible posts include articles or note, something out and about that makes you think of the course (for instance, one student was surprised to see the image of a folk saint we had discussed in class at La Tienda restaurant), or if they take a photo or short video at one of the 3 Latin-America-related events you are required to attend throughout the term. Post to Facebook or Twitter and tag the Center for Latin American Studies on social media using #UFLAS, @LatamUF. Each post is worth a ½ point and up to 4 posts can count (submit relevant screenshot to EC tabs in Canvas).

THE COMPUTER ATE MY HOMEWORK: Problems with technology are not an acceptable excuse for late submission of your assignments. You should assume that technology will fail you at some point. It is incumbent upon you to **PLAN AHEAD** and not leave your work for the last possible moment.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY: Given the [increasing scientific evidence](#) that technology use in the classroom hinders, rather than helps learning, laptops, tablets, and cell phones are during class time unless there are documented accommodations allowing for their use.

MAKE-UP POLICY: Unannounced quizzes cannot be made up. For exams, only university-approved documented excuses will be accepted. Make-up exams are a different format than the original, combining an oral and written portion.

INCOMPLETES: In accordance with UF policies, an incomplete may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor as an interim grade for a course in which:

- 1) the student has completed a major portion of the course with a passing grade, AND
- 2) been unable to complete course requirements before the end of the term because of extenuating circumstances, AND
- 3) obtained written agreement from the instructor and arranged for resolution of the incomplete grade.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Academic Honesty:

Anyone caught cheating on exams or submitting work authored by another will receive an “E” grade, and be referred to the dean’s office. For the University’s policy on academic honesty, please visit <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php#3>

Students with Disabilities:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office, who will provide documentation to the student. This documentation must be presented to the Instructor as soon as possible in order to arrange for the accommodations.

Confidentiality:

Student records are confidential. Only information designated "UF directory information" may be released without your written consent. Please see University Regulation 6C1-4.007 for a list of the categories of information designated as "UF directory information." UF views each student as the primary contact for all communication. For more information: www.registrar.ufl.edu.ferpahub.html

Counseling and Wellness:

A variety of counseling, mental health and psychiatric services are available through the UF Counseling and Wellness Center, whose goal is to help students be maximally effective in their academic pursuits by reducing or eliminating emotional, psychological, and interpersonal problems that interfere with academic functioning. The Center can be found online at <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc> or reached by phone at 392-1575.

NOTE: Please see the following page for the class calendar. This syllabus, including readings, guest lectures, and assignment dates are subject to change.

Course Outline**Week 1**

August 22: Introduction, Course overview
Why Brazil?
In class reflection

August 24: Imagining the past
Reading: Darcy Ribeiro's *The Brazilian People*, chapters 1 and 2 (Canvas)

Week 2

August 29: Brazil before Brazil
Readings: *Skidmore*: Intro, Chapter 1
Watch: [Lost Cities of the Amazon](#)

August 31: Colonial society, Imperial Brazil
Readings: *Skidmore*: Chapters 2-3

Week 3

September 5: Independence and Old Republic
Skidmore: Chapter 4

September 7: (Actual Brazilian Independence... DAY!)
Building a nation: Vargas to Military Coup
Reading: *Skidmore*: Ch. 5, selections from Chapters 6-7
DUE: Discussion Lead Sign Up, Grassroots Topics

Week 4

September 12: Military Rule, Memory Making, and Erasure
Reading: Schneider: *Breaking the 'Silence' of the Military Regime: New Politics of Memory in Brazil*

September 14: **Discussion Café 1:**
Brazil through the years. Preparation: select 3 news articles about Brazil, one from each of 3 decades, consecutive or not (but one article must be from 2000-2010). These do not count as Discussion Leads! After brief descriptions (3-5 sentences) of each article, discuss in a paragraph the media's conception of the country and how it has changed (or not). Note: Reputable sources only: Reuters, UPI, TIME, Newsweek, BBC, etc. Radio is also permissible (NPR, PRI.) Include the article URLs or bibliographic information on your printout.

Week 5

September 19: Here we grow: Urbanization and the populace
Readings: *Walls*: Introduction, Ch. 1 *Ordering the World*, Ch. 2 *Crisis and Criminals*
[Crossing Streets](#)

September 21: Justifying modern inequality
Readings: *Walls*: Ch. 5 *Police Violence* Ch. 6 *Urban Segregation*,
Watch: [Unofficial Apartheid](#)

Week 6

September 26: Neoliberal Cityscapes

Readings: *Walls*: Ch. 7 *Fortified Enclaves*, Ch. 8 *Implosion of Modern São Paulo Runs Dry*

September 28: **Midterm**

Begin reading Goldstein

Week 7

October 3: Family in Brazilian Society

Readings: Fonseca: Family Belonging and Class Hierarchy (Canvas)
(You should be up to Chapter 2 in Goldstein)

October 5: Domestic Labor in Brazil

Readings: Smith: Putting Prostitutes in their Place (Canvas)
(You should up to Chapter 3 in Goldstein)

Week 8

October 10: Social Relations: *Jeitinho*, Personalism, and Cordiality

Readings: Chapters from *The Brazilian Puzzle* (Canvas)
[Pimp my Carroça](#)
(You should up to Chapter 6 in Goldstein)

October 12: **Discussion Café 2:** Laughter Out of Place. Finish Goldstein. Prepare a careful analysis of one of the chapters in Goldstein (except Introduction). Elements should include a brief summary, a discussion of Goldstein's main arguments and whether or not she is successful, the impact of the chapter's vignettes, and highlighting connections to other course materials through concrete examples. 350-450 words

Week 9

October 17: God is Brazilian: Religion and Religiosity

Readings: Coutinho and Golgher: The Changing Landscape of Religious Affiliation in Brazil
Shirey: Transforming the Orixás
[On Shooting Yemanjá Documentary](#)

October 19: Health and Healthcare

Readings: http://joaobiehl.net/wp-content/uploads/2009/07/Biehl-2006-Public_Culture1.pdf
<http://joaobiehl.net/wp-content/uploads/2009/07/Judicialisation.pdf>
Pagano: Everyday Narratives of Race and Health in Brazil

Week 10

October 24: Grassroots Showcase (No Discussion Lead)

Students (4):

October 26: Who is Black in Brazil?

Readings: Podcast: Rough Translation [Brazil in Black and White](#)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHVNdsuchH7o> (Black in Latin America)
Globe, [Brazil's Color Bind](#)

[Dark Skinned or Black?](#)

Pinho: White, but not Quite.

Angelic Dass: [Beauty of Human Skin](#)

[One Woman's Fight to Claim Her Blackness](#)

Week 11

October 31: Grassroots Showcase (No Discussion Lead)

Students (4)

November 4: PT's Brazil, Brazil's PT

Readings: Popular press articles from the rise of the PT era available in Canvas

Grassroots Showcase (No Discussion Lead)

Students (4)

Week 12

November 7: Grassroots Showcase (No Discussion Lead)

Students (4)

November 9: Social Movements in Brazil: The fight for land

Readings: Popular press articles on various social movements available in Canvas

Grassroots Showcase (No Discussion Lead)

Students (4)

Week 13

November 14: Social Movements in Brazil: Women mobilize

Readings: Popular press articles on various social movements available in Canvas

Grassroots Showcase (No Discussion Lead)

November 16: **Discussion Café 3: Brazil and the Rest of Latin America.** In order to complement what you are learning about Brazil in this course, you have been required to attend three local cultural or academic events focusing on Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinx communities in the U.S. Gather your three previously submitted EVENT ATTENDANCE forms into one document and then write a brief reflection (300-400 words) connecting the events to content or ideas raised in our course or your project study research. What themes, issues, or concerns link Brazil to the rest of Latin America? How did events uphold (or challenge) the broad themes of the course?

Week 14:

November 21: Tourism: the Foreign Gaze and Brazilian Imaginary

Readings: [The Development of the Tourist Imagery of Brazil in Between Stereotypes and Clichés](#)
[Plantation Tourism and Slavery](#)

Carrier Moisan: Putting Femininity to Work

November 23: **Thanksgiving Break: no class**

Week 15

November 28: Here we go again: Political chaos and economic turmoil

Readings: Popular press articles on current “state of the state” available in Canvas

November 30: Guest Lecture TBD

Week 16

December 6: Course Summation: Whose country is it?

Take Home Final: Answers Due December 9 (Canvas)

Graduate Papers: Due December 9th (Canvas)