Brazilian Paradoxes: Slavery, Race, and Inequality in Brazil (from a Portuguese Colony to the World’s 8th Largest Economy)

Credits: 3.00
Level: Upper Level Undergraduate
Seats Available: 15
PosTag(s): HIST-LATAM, INST-GLOBAL, INST-NWHIST

Meets:
Room: Homewood Campus, Bloomberg 178 (could change)
Days: Tuesday-Thursday 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM

Credits: 3

Instructor:
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Course Description:
Place of contrasts, Brazil has a multi-ethnic cultural heritage challenged by social and racial inequalities. Its political life remains chaotic. We will examine these problems through Brazilian history and culture.

Course Requirements:
- Attendance: Attendance at every class session is required. Unexcused absences are not permitted and will result in a reduction of your final grade.
- Required readings and in-class discussion: In-class Students will complete all required readings prior to class meetings and be prepared to make regular contributions to the in-class discussion. Attendance and discussion count toward 20 % of the final grade.
- Blackboard discussions: Each student will post a response (from half a page to one page) to the Blackboard site once for each of 11 weeks with readings during the semester. This requires that each student post 11 times during the semester. Discussion posts are due no later than 2:00 pm on Monday. Posts should respond to the instructor’s question of the week and must reflect your understanding of the course readings, lecture, and discussion. Discussion posts count toward 20 % of the final grade.
- Film of the week: Each week, a group of 2 students will present the film of the week (short presentation, selection of some parts to be projected or read, organization of the discussion with the class). These presentations count toward 20% of the final grade.
- Final paper: A final paper of 8 to 12 pages on one of the documents chosen with the Instructor. It must be submitted to the Blackboard “Assignment” section no later than May 10. No extensions will be granted. The final exam counts toward 40 % of the final grade.

Required book:
(Available for purchase at local bookstores and on reserve in the Library)

Books on reserve in Eisenhower Library for the presentation of the film of the week:

And to know “all” about Brazilian cinema today, see: http://www.filmesbrasileiros.net/

**Schedule of sessions:**

**Session I: January 29 and 31, Introduction: Brazil in the turmoil after the 2018 elections**

Documents:
- Inauguration of the new Brazilian president (January 1st 2019) in international and social medias # On Blackboard.
  In-class work-shop:
  - Analysis of the documents and discussion

**Session II: February 5 and 7: First Contact (1500): Europeans Describe Brazil**

Documents:

Readings:
- *Brazil: A Biography*, chap. 1 (First Came the Name…).
  Optional:

The film of the week:

Documents to prepare the screening of the film of the week:
Session III: February 12 and 14, Sugar in the Portuguese Colonization of South America (Sixteenth to Eighteenth Century)

Documents:

Readings:
- Brazil: A Biography, chap. 2 (The Sugar Civilization...).
Optional:

The film of the week:
- Xica da Silva, dir. Carlos Diegues, 1976 (107 min.) VHS copy in Eisenhower Library (Video A1312 c. 1) and CD transcription of the VHS from JMH

Documents to prepare the screening of the film of the week:

Session IV: February 18 and 21, From Indian Slavery to African Slavery (Sixteenth to Nineteenth Century)

Documents:

Readings:

Optional:
- Brazil: A Biography, chap. 3 (Tit for Tat...).
Session V: February 26 and 28, A Strange Independence (1822): How the Portuguese Monarchy Created the Brazilian Empire (1822-1889)?

document: Pedro Américo, Independência ou Morte [Independency or Death], Oil on Canvas, 1888, Museu Paulista, University of São Paulo).

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Independ%C3%AAncia_ou_Morte.jpg

Readings:
- Brazil: A Biography, chap. 8 (The Father Leaves, the Son Remains) and 9 (Independence habemus: Instability in the First Empire)

Optional:

The film of the week:
- Mauá: O Imperador e o Rei, dir. Sérgio Rezende, 1999 (130 min.) YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OWeXJt9zH0

Documents to prepare the screening of the film of the week:

Session VI: March 5 and 7, From Slave Rebellions to Emancipation (1888)

Documents:
- Machado de Assis, “Father versus mother” (Pai contra Mãe, 1905).
- Machado de Assis, The Wager: Aires' Journal (Memorial de Aires, 1908), extract about the proclamation of emancipation.
- Princess Isabel on a balcony of the Palace on May, 13th 1888, photo, 1888.
- Pedro Américo, Libertação dos escravos [Emancipation of slaves], painting, 1889

Readings:
abolition: The Process

The film of the week:
- Diary of a provincial girl (*Vida de menina*), dir. Elena Solberg, 2004 (102 min.)

Documents to prepare the screening of the film of the week:

**Session VII: March 12 and 14, “Os sertões” (The Hinterlands) in the modern nation: national identity in debate**

Documents:

Readings:

Optional:

The film of the week:

Documents to prepare the screening of the film of the week:

**March 19 and 21: Spring Vacation**

**Session VIII: March 26 and 28: The Years of Getúlio Vargas (1930-1954): Populism, Dictatorship, or Modernization?**

Documents:
- Getúlio Vargas, Testamentary Letter of President Getúlio Vargas Left on the Bedside Table Next to his Body, 24 August 1954 # On Blackboard

Readings:

Optional:
- Brazilian Culture in World War II Propaganda Movie: Brazil at War (1943) # Available on line at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lz5higmFu0E
- Jessica Graham, “Race, Cultural Production, and Brazil’s Democratic Image during World War II”, english version of « Question raciale, production culturelle et image démocratique du Brésil pendant la
The film of the week:
- Olga, dir. Jayme Monjardim, 2004

Documents to prepare the screening of the film of the week:

Session IX: April 2 and 4, The Birth of a Longstanding Myth: Brazil as “Racial Democracy”

Documents:
- Gilberto Freyre, “Social Life in Brazil in the Middle of the Nineteenth Century,” Hispanic American Historical Review, vol. 5, nº 4, 1922, pp. 597-630. # On Blackboard

Optional:

The films of the week:

Documents to prepare the screening of the film of the week:


Documents:

Readings:

Optional:

The film of the week:
The year my parents went on vacation, Cao Hamburger, 2006, 104 min (Eisenhower Library PN1997.2 .A56 2011 c. 1)

Documents to prepare the screening of the film of the week:

Session XI: April 16 and 18, Music, Television and Politics (from the 1960s to the 1980s): Popular vs. Elite Cultures?
Documents:
- Tropicalia, Documentary dir. by Marcelo Machado, Mr. Bongo Films, 2013, 87 min.

Readings:
- Lorraine Leleu, Brazilian popular music: Caetano Veloso and the regeneration of tradition, Farnham, Surrey, UK, Ashgate Publisher, 2006, pp. 24-58 (Chap. 2, Style and Sexual politics in the Tropicália Period). # On Blackboard

Optional:

The film of the week:
- Rio Zona Norte, dir. Nelson Pereira dos Santos, 1957

Session XII: April 23 and 25, From FHC to Lula, and Dilma (1995-2016): Economic Development and/or Social Programs (Neo-Liberalism in Discussion)?
Documents:

The film of the week:
- Casa grande, dir. Felleipe Barbosa, 2016, 114 min (Will be ordered by the Library)

Documents to prepare the screening of the film of the week:
- Débora Gorbán & Ania Tizziani, “Comparative Perspectives on Domestic Work in Latin America (Argentina and Brazil)”, Journal of Latino/Latin-American Studies, 9, 1, 2018, pp. 4-18. # On Blackboard

Session XIII: April 30 and May 2, Brazil in the Global Crises (2012-present): Return to Populism?
Documents:
- Sob Vinte Centavos, dir. Gustavo Canzian & Marco Guasti, 40 min. (On line: http://www.filmesbrasileiros.net/page/2/)

Readings:

The film of the week:
Aquarius, dir. Kleber Mendonca Filho, 2017, 146 min. (Eisenhower Library PN1997.2 .A68 2017 c. 1). Documents to prepare the screening of the film of the week:
Tom Winterbottom, “Political Cartographies in Aquarius”, Brasiliana. Journal for Brazilian Studies, 6, 1, 2017, pp. 64-84 # On Blackboard

NB: Don’t be afraid by the number of texts to read. Every week the list will be divided between the different students of the class. This syllabus is not the definitive one. Some light modifications can be done before the first class.