AS.100.394.01.SP21
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: On Zoom
Days: Tuesday-Thursday 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM

Credits: 3

Instructor:
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Office Hours: Wednesday 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM (on line)

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.

Important preliminary point:
This syllabus may be adapted during the semester to help us to find the best way to work together on line.

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: 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 on Blackboard a response (from half a page to one page) to the questions about the readings of the week (only on sessions 2 to 9, 11, 12, and 14). 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 25 % of the final grade.
- Film of the week: Each week, a pair of students will present the film of the week (short presentation, selection of some clips to be projected, and organization of the discussion with the class). These presentations count toward 15 % of the final grade.
- Final paper: A final paper of 8 to 12 pages on one of the documents chosen in consultation with the Instructor. It must be submitted to the Blackboard “Assignment” section no later than May 10. No extensions will be granted. The final paper counts toward 40 % of the final grade.

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

**Schedule of sessions:**

**Session I: January 26 and 28, Introduction: Brazil in the age of Jair Bolsonaro**

**Documents:**
- Sample of articles from US and International newspapers on Brazil (published during January) # On Blackboard

**In-class discussion:**
- On Tuesday: Introduction and class organization.
- On Thursday: Q&A with Sandra Coutinho, Brazilian journalist (TV Globo): each student prepares two questions linked to their reading.

**Session II: February 2 and 4: First Contact (1500): Europeans Describe Brazil**

**Documents:**

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

**The film of the week:**

**Session III: February 9 and 11, Sugar in the Portuguese Colonization of South America (Sixteenth to Eighteenth Century)**

**Documents:**

**Readings:**
- *Brazil: A Biography*, chap. 2 (“The Sugar Civilization…”).

**The film of the week:**

**Documents to prepare the screening of the film:**
- Cliff Welch, Film Review in *American Historical Review*, October 1992, p. 1162-64 # On Blackboard
Session IV: February 16 and 18, From Sugar to Gold; from The Atlantic Shore to the Hinterland (Eighteenth Century)

Document:

Readings:
- *Brazil: A Biography*, chap. 4 (Gold!) and 5 (Revolt, Conspiracy and Sedition in the Tropical Paradise).

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 V: February 23 and 25, 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](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Independ%C3%Aancia_ou_Morte.jpg) and on Blackboard

Readings:
- *Brazil: A Biography*, chap. 8 (The Father Leaves, the Son Remains).

Optional:
- *Brazil: A Biography*, chap. 9 (Independence habemus: Instability in the First Empire)

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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OWeXJT9ZH0)

Documents to prepare the screening of the film of the week:
- *Brazil: A Biography*, chap. 11 (The Second Reign...) and 12 (The End of the Monarchy...)
Session VI: March 2 and 4, From Slave Rebellions to Emancipation (1888)
Documents:
- Machado de Assis, “Father versus mother” (Pai contra Mãe, 1905). # On Blackboard
- Machado de Assis, The Wager: Aires' Journal (Memorial de Aires, 1908), extract about the proclamation of emancipation. # On Blackboard
- Princess Isabel on a balcony of the Palace on May, 13th 1888, photo, 1888. # On Blackboard
- Pedro Américo, Libertação dos escravos [Emancipation of slaves], painting, 1889 # On Blackboard
Readings:
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 9 and 11, “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:

Session VIII: March 16 and 18: The Years of Getúlio Vargas (1930-1954): Populism, Dictatorship, or Modernization?
Documents:
- Visual propaganda of Getulio Vargas (by Google images)
Readings:
- Brazil: A Biography, chap. 14 (Samba, Malandragem, Authoritarism: The Birth of Modern Brazil)).

Optional:
- Brazilian Culture in World War II Propaganda Movie: Brazil at War (1943) # Available on line at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lz5higmFuqE


The film of the week:
- Olga, dir. Jayme Monjardim, 2004

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

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**Session IX: March 23 and 25, 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, n° 4, 1922, pp. 597-630. # On Blackboard

Readings:

Optional:

The films of the week:

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

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**Session X (only one session): March 30, Discussion on your final essay (document(s), topic).**


Documents:

Readings:

Optional:

The film of the week:
- The year my parents went in vacation (O ano em que meus pais saíram de férias), 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 XII:** April 13 and 15, From FHC to Lula, and Dilma (1995-2016): Economic Development and/or Social Programs (Neo-Liberalism in Discussion)?

Documents:

Readings:

The film of the week:
- Casa grande, dir. Fellipe 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** (only one session): April 20, Presentation and discussion of the first draft of your final essay.

**Session XIV:** April 27 and 29, 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:
- Tom Winterbottom, “Political Cartographies in Aquarius”, *Brasiliana. Journal for Brazilian Studies, 6*, 1, 2017, pp. 64-84 # On Blackboard