

AS.100.379

Brazil History and Cultures: A Glance from Baltimore

Credits: 3.00

Level: Upper-Level Undergraduate

Seats Available: 15

PosTag(s): HIST-LATAM, INST-GLOBAL, INST-NWHIST

Meets:

Room: Maryland 114

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

Course Description:

Brazil is a place of paradoxes and contrasts. The sixth most populated nation, it boasts one of the world's largest economies and an advanced industrial sector but suffers income disparity and regional economic imbalances that are among the world's most dire. Its constitution guarantees social and economic justice and protects historically disenfranchised groups, but implementation and enforcement of the law is hobbled by special interests, political and police corruption. It celebrates its rich multi-ethnic cultural heritage but remains stratified by perceived racial and regional differences.

Using textual and visual documents from 16th century to today, we will examine the historical roots of these paradoxes. We will also be particularly attentive to the 200 plus books on Brazil purchased by the Peabody Library since 1857. Memoirs of travelers, scientific or geographic descriptions, projects of industrial development, many of them are discussing the slave institution which structured the country since its colonization by the Portuguese empire. These topics were speaking to the Baltimorean readers who frequented the library during and after the Civil War. We will try to understand why.

Important preliminary point:

This syllabus may be adapted during the semester to help us to find the best way to work together.

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 student 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 books of the Brazilian collection in Peabody Library (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)

- Lilia M. Schwarcz and Heloisa M. Starling, *Brazil: A Biography*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2018 (ISBN-10: 0374280495; ISBN-13: 978-03742804992018).

Schedule of sessions:

Session I: January 25 and 27, Introduction: Brazil in the age of Jair Bolsonaro

In-class discussion:

- On Tuesday: Introduction and class organization.
- On Thursday: Q&A about Brazil today. Each student prepares 5 questions (to be posted before Wednesday 7 pm on Blackboard (Discussion, Week 1)

Session II: February 1 and 3: First Contact (1500): Europeans Describe Brazil

Documents:

- "Letter of Pero Vaz de Caminha (May 1, 1500), in Charles David Ley, ed., *Portuguese Voyages, 1498-1663*, New York: E. P. Dutton, 1947, p. 41-59 #On Blackboard
- *Hans Staden's True History: An Account of Cannibal Captivity in Brazil*, Duke University Press, 2008, pp. 21-31 [Chap. 1 to 5 - The first travel] # On Blackboard

Readings:

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

Optional Readings:

- Donald W. Forsyth, "The Beginnings of Brazilian Anthropology: Jesuits and Tupinamba Cannibalism, *Journal of Anthropological Research*, Vol. 39, No. 2, 1983, p. 147-178. # On Blackboard
- Michel de Montaigne, *Essays*, "Of Cannibals". # On Blackboard

The film of the week:

- “How Tasty Was My Little Frenchman [Como Era Gostoso o Meu Francês]”, dir. Nelson Pereira dos Santos, 1971, 84 min., DVD in Sheridan Library: PN1997.H696 2007 c. 1; On YouTube (English subtitles): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_OqbiWanj4E #E-Reserve.

Documents to prepare the discussion on the film:

- *Hans Staden: the true history of his captivity, 1557*, New York, R. M. McBride & Company, 1929. (Eisenhower Library G161.A6 S7 1929 c. 1). # Excerpt on Blackboard (chap. 26-29)
- Jean de Léry, *History of a voyage to the land of Brazil, otherwise called America*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990 (Eisenhower Library F2511.L60513 1990 c. 1).
- Darien Davis, Film Review in *American Historical Review*, April 2001, p. 695-697 # On Blackboard.
- Adetty Pérez de Miles, “An Oppositional Reading of Patriarchy, Love, Neo-Colonialism, and Anthropophagy in Nelson Pereira dos Santos’s film “How Tasty Was My Little Frenchman”, *Visual Culture & Gender*, vol. 8, 2013, p. 104-114 # On Blackboard.

Session III: February 8 and 10, Sugar in the Portuguese Colonization of South America (Sixteenth to Eighteenth Century)

Documents:

- “Excerpt from a Letter from the Administrator of *Engenho* [plantation] São Jorge de Erasmo (1548)”, In

Early Brazil: A Documentary Collection to 1700, edited by Stuart B. Schwartz, Cambridge University Press, 2010, p. 198-202.

ProQuest Ebook Central, <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/jhu/detail.action?docID=615810>.

- “Instructions on How to Manage a Sugar Mill and Estate (1663)”, In

Early Brazil: A Documentary Collection to 1700, edited by Stuart B. Schwartz, Cambridge University Press, 2010, p. 224-229.

ProQuest Ebook Central, <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/jhu/detail.action?docID=615810>.

Readings:

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

The film of the week:

- “Quilombo”, dir. Carlos Diegues, 1984, 110 min, DVD in Sheridan Library F2651.P15 Q5522 2005 c. 1, # Panopto.

Documents to prepare the discussion on the film:

- Cliff Welch, Film Review in *American Historical Review*, October 1992, p. 1162-64 # On Blackboard

- R. K. Kent, “Palmares: An African State in Brazil”, *The Journal of African History*, vol. 6, n° 2, 1965, p. 161-175. # On Blackboard

- Robert Nelson Anderson, “The Quilombo of Palmares: A New Overview of a Maroon State in Seventeenth-Century Brazil”, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, vol. 28, n° 3, 1996, p. 545-566. # On Blackboard

Session IV: February 15 and 17, From Sugar to Gold; from The Atlantic Shore to the Hinterland (Eighteenth Century)

Document:

- André João Antonil, *Cultura e opulência do Brasil: por suas drogas, e minas*, Lisbon, Deslandesiana, 1711 [Engl. Transl. : *Brazil at the Dawn of the Eighteenth Century*, Tagus Press/UMass Dartmouth, 2012], Part 3 # On Blackboard.

Readings:

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

Optional:

- A. J. R. Russell-Wood, "Technology and society: the impact of gold mining on the institution of Slavery in Portuguese America", *The Journal of Economic History*, 37, 1, 1977.

The film of the week:

- "Xica da Silva", dir. Carlos Diegues, 1976, 107 min., VHS copy in Sheridan Library (Video A1312 c. 1), CD transcription of the VHS on #Panopto

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

- Júnia Ferreira Furtado, *Chica da Silva: A Brazilian Slave of the Eighteenth Century (New approaches to the Americas)*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1999 (Preface, pp. vii-xxvi and Introduction to the English edition, pp. 1-19 # Available on line at

http://www.amazon.com/Chica-Silva-Brazilian-Eighteenth-Approaches/dp/0521884659/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1281450298&sr=1-1#reader_0521884659) and # On Blackboard.

- Randal Johnson, "Carnavalesque Celebration in Xica da Silva", In Randal Johnson and Robert Stam, *Brazilian Cinema*, New York, Columbia University Press, 1995, p. 216 # On Blackboard. P 3995.5.B6 B7 1995)

- Christopher A. Shinn, "Hemispheric Postcolonialism: Black Female Sexuality and Slavery in the Americas", *Literature Compass*, vol. 13, 9, p. 538 # On Blackboard.

Session V: February 22 and 24, 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 and on Blackboard

Readings:

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

Optional Readings:

- Leslie Bethell, "The Independence of Brazil", in Leslie Bethell, ed., *Brazil: empire and republic, 1822-1930*, Cambridge, UK, Cambridge University Press, 1993, p. 3-43. # On Blackboard

- Emilia Viotti da Costa, *The Brazilian Empire: Myths and Histories*, Rev. Ed., Chapel Hill, The University of North Carolina Press, 2000, p. 1-23 (Chap. 1: Independence: The Building of a nation) # On Blackboard Optional:

The film of the week:

- "Mauá: O Imperador e o Rei", dir. Sérgio Rezende, 1999, 130 min., personal DVD of the instructor # in Panopto ; YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OWeXJT9ZH0>

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

- Anyda Marchant, *Viscount Mauá and the Empire of Brazil: A Biography of Irineu Evangelista de Sousa, 1813-1889*, Berkeley, University of California Press, 1965 (Eisenhower Library F2536.M4 M3 1965 c. 1).

- Roderick J. Barman, "Business and Government in Imperial Brazil: The Experience of Viscount Mauá", *Journal of Latin American Studies*, vol. 13, nº 2 (Nov., 1981), p. 239-264. # On Blackboard

- *Brazil: A Biography*, chap. 11 (The Second Reign...) and 12 (The End of the Monarchy...)

Session VI: March 1 and 3, From Slave Rebellions to Emancipation (1888)

Documents:

- Machado de Assis, "Father versus mother" (*Pai contra Mãe*, 1905). # On Blackboard

Readings:

- *Brazil: A Biography*, chap. 12 (The End of the Monarchy in Brazil)

Optional Readings:

- João J. Reis, "Slave Resistance in Brazil: Bahia 1807-1835", *Luso-Brazilian Review*, 25, 1, Summer 1988, pp. 111-144. # On Blackboard

The film of the week:

- "Diary of a provincial girl [Vida de menina]", dir. Elena Solberg, 2004, 102 min., DVD by ILL on #Panopto.

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

- Helena Morley, *The diary of "Helena Morley"*, New York, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1957 (Eisenhower Library F2651.D5 M6713 1957 c. 1)

- Walter Fraga, *Crossroads of Freedom: Slaves and Freed People in Bahia, Brazil, 1870-1910*, Durham, Duke University Press, 2016, chap. 4: May 13, and its Immediate Aftermath. On line at <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/jhu/detail.action?docID=4504050>

Session VII: March 8 and 10, "Os sertões" (The Hinterlands) in the modern nation: national identity in debate

Documents:

- Euclides da Cunha, *Rebellion in the Backlands*, Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1944, pp. 50-169 (Part 1, The Backlands, chap. 2: Man) # On Blackboard

Readings:

- *Brazil: A Biography*, chap. 13 (The First Republic).

- Robert M. Levine, *Vale of Tears: Revisiting the Canudos Massacre in Northeastern Brazil, 1893-1897*, Berkeley and Los Angeles, The University of California Press, 1995, pp. 153-192 with corresponding notes (Chap. 4, The conflict) # On Blackboard

Optional:

- Patricia R. Pessar, *From Fanatics to Folk: Brazilian Millenarianism and Popular Culture*, Durham, Duke University Press, 2004, pp. 37-66 (Chap. 2, The Povo makes a Saint). # On Blackboard

- João Guimarães Rosa, *The Devil to Pay in the Backlands*, London, Alfred Knopf, 1963 (in a translation of 1971 in Sheridan Library: PJ5697.R67 G713 1971 c. 1)

The film of the week:

- "Black god white devil [Deus e o diablo na terra do sol]", dir. Glauber Rocha, 1964, 118 min., DVD in Sheridan Library PN1997.D482 2010 c. 1 #in E-Reserve.

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

- Ismail Xavier, "Black God, White Devil: The Representation of History", in Randal Johnson and Robert Stam, *Brazilian Cinema*, New York, Columbia University Press, 1995, p. 134 (On Reserve in Eisenhower Library P 3995.5 .B6 B7 1995)

- Glauber Rocha, "History of Cinema Novo", *Framework*, 12, 1979, p. 19-27. # On Blackboard

Session VIII: March 15 and 17: 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, Authoritarianism: The Birth of Modern Brazil*)).

- Robert M. Levine, *Father of the Poor? Vargas and his Era*, Cambridge, UK, Cambridge University Press, 1998, pp. 1-12 (Introduction: Vargas as enigma) and pp. 50-74 (Chap. 3, The Estado Novo, 1937-45). # On Blackboard

Optional:

- Helgio Trindade, "Extract from *Fascism and authoritarianism in Brazil under Vargas 1930-1945*", In *Fascism: The 'fascist epoch'*, Vol. 4 of *Critical concepts in political science*, edited by Roger Griffin with Matthew Feldman, New York, Taylor & Francis, 2004, pp. 269-303. # On Blackboard

- Brazilian Culture in World War II Propaganda Movie: Brazil at War (1943) # Available on line at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lz5higmFuoE>

- 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 Seconde Guerre mondiale », *Brésil(s)*, 13, 2018, On line <http://journals.openedition.org/bresils/2569> ; DOI : 10.4000/bresils.2569 # English version on blackboard.

The film of the week:

- "Olga", dir. Jayme Monjardim, 2004, 140 min., DVD in Sheridan Library, PN1997.2.O443 2012 c. 1 |, #Panopto.

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

- Tzvi Tal, "Olga Benario Prestes: The Cinematic Martyrdom of a Revolutionary Jewish Woman and the Reconstruction of National Identity in Luiz Inácio "Lula" da Silva's Brazil", *Women in Judaism*, vol. 9. Issue 2, Oct. 2012, p. 1-16 # On Blackboard

Spring Break: March 21 - 25

Session IX: March 29 and 31: The Brazilian books of Peabody Library

- On Tuesday: Presentation of the collection (with my research assistant Victor Alridge)

- On Thursday: Visit of Peabody Library (with Paul Espinosa, curator of the library)

At the end of this week, each one will choose one of the books of the collection for the terminal essay.

Session X: April 5 and 7, The Birth of a Longstanding Myth: Brazil as "Racial Democracy"

Documents:

- Gilberto Freyre, "Preface to the first English language edition of *The Masters and the Slaves*", in *The Masters and the Slaves [Casa Grande e Senzala]: A Study in the Development of Brazilian civilization*, Berkeley and Los Angeles, University of California Press, 2nd edition, 1986, pp. xi-xvii. On Google Books:

https://books.google.com/books?id=WYFFbVYEzvkC&printsec=frontcover&hl=fr&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false

Readings:

- Thomas E. Skidmore, "Raízes de Gilberto Freyre", *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 2002, 34, 1, pp. 1-20. # On Blackboard

Optional Readings:

- Gilberto Freyre, *The Masters and the Slaves*", in *The Masters and the Slaves [Casa Grande e Senzala]: A Study in the Development of Brazilian civilization*, Berkeley and Los Angeles, University of California Press, 2nd edition, 1986, p. 278-403 (Chap. IV: The Negro slave in the sexual and the familial life of the Brazilian) # On Google Books:

https://books.google.com/books?id=WYFFbVYEzvkC&printsec=frontcover&hl=fr&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false

- Frank Tannenbaum, *Slave and Citizen: The Negro in the Americas*, New York, Alfred E. Knopf, 1946 (A very important book on slavery in the two Americas and on the differences between Catholic and Protestant slave societies, largely influenced by Freyre)

The films of the week:

- "Orfeu Negro [Black Orpheus]", dir. Marcel Camus, 1959, 100 min., Extended international version. [Irvington, NY]: Criterion Collection, 1999, DVD in Sheridan Library PN1997.O64713 1999 c. 1, # Panopto.

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

- Royal S. Brown, "Black Orpheus", *Cineaste*, 36, 1, 2010, pp. 56-58. # On Blackboard

- Charles A. Perrone, "Don't look back: Myths, conceptions, and receptions of Black Orpheus", *Studies in Latin American Popular Culture*, 17, 1, 1998, pp. 155-178. # On Blackboard

Session XI: April 12 and 14, The Country under Military Dictatorship (1964-1985): Support, Resistance, or Emigration

Readings:

- *Brazil: A Biography*, chap. 17 ("On a Knife Edge...") On Blackboard

- James Green, "Paradoxes of the Brazilian Dictatorship", manuscript non-published in English, 2014. # On Blackboard.

Optional:

- Kenneth P. Serbin, « The Anatomy of a Death: Repression, Human Rights and the Case of Alexandre Vannucchi Leme in Authoritarian Brazil », *Journal of Latin American Studies*, Vol. 30, No. 1 (Feb., 1998), pp. 1-33 # On Blackboard

- *Torture in Brazil: A Shocking Report on the Pervasive Use of Torture by Brazilian Military Governments, 1964-1979, secretly prepared by the Archdiocese of São Paulo*, New York, First Vintage Books, 1986; New ed., Austin, Texas, The University of Texas Press, 1998. # On Google Books:

https://books.google.fr/books?id=AZs9G-v4798C&pg=1&hl=&as_pt=BOOKS&cd=1&source=gbs_api#v=onepage&q&f=false

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, DVD in Eisenhower Library PN1997.2 .A56 2011 c. 1) #On Panopto

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

- Jeffrey Lesser, "Epilogue", In *Welcoming the Undesirables: Brazil and the Jewish Question*, Berkeley and London, University of California Press, 1995, pp. 169-177 and notes, p. 238-240. # On Blackboard

- Karen Backstein, "The Year My Parents Went on Vacation", *Cineaste*, 33, 2, 2008, p. 54-55. # On Blackboard

Session XII: April 26 and 28, From FHC to Lula, and Dilma (1995-2016): Economic Development and/or Social Programs (Neo-Liberalism in Discussion)?

Documents:

- Interviews of women receiving help from the Bolsa Familia Program, in J. Green, V. Langland, and L. Moritz Schwarcz, *The Brazilian Reader*, Durham, Duke University Press, 2019, 2nd edition, pp. 523-525. # On Blackboard

Readings:

- Michael Reid, *Brazil: The Troubled Rise of a Global Power*, Yale University Press, 2014, chap. 8: "Lulismo and the Brazilian Dream". # On Blackboard

- Anthony Hall, "From Fome Zero to Bolsa Familia: Social Policies and Poverty Alleviation under Lula", *Journal of Latin-American Studies*, 38, pp. 689–709, 2006. # On Blackboard

Optional:

- Alfredo Saad Filho, "Neoliberalism, Democracy, and Development Policy in Brazil", *Development and Society*, 39, 1, 2010, pp. 1-28. # On line (free):

https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/deveandsoci.39.1.1.pdf?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents

- Timothy J. Power, "Brazilian Democracy as a Late Bloomer: Reevaluating the Regime in the Cardoso-Lula Era", *Latin American Research Review*, Vol. 45, Special Issue: Living in Actually Existing Democracies (2010), pp. 218-247. # On Blackboard

The film of the week:

"Casa grande", dir. Fellipe Barbosa, 2016, 114 min, DVD in Sheridan Library, PN1997.2.C37 2016 c. 1 # On Panopto

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