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) in 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)

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:
- 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:
- Michel de Montaigne, Essays, “Of Cannibals”. # On Blackboard

The film of the week:

Documents to prepare the discussion on the film:
- Darien Davis, Film Review in American Historical Review, April 2001, p. 695-697 # On Blackboard.

Session III: February 8 and 10, 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 discussion on the film:
- Cliff Welch, Film Review in American Historical Review, October 1992, p. 1162-64 # On Blackboard

Session IV: February 15 and 17, 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 Sheridan Library (Video A1312 c. 1), CD transcription of the VHS on #Panopto

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

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

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

The film of the week:

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

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

Documents:

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

Optional:

The film of the week:

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

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

The film of the week:

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

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:
Readings:

Optional Readings:
- 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:

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


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:

The film of the week:

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

Readings:

Optional:

The film of the week:

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