Latin American Studies 370: Brazil: Culture and Politics
Fall Term 2007

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Office hours:
Professor López: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:15pm-4:15pm and by appointment
Professor Montero: Monday 9-11 am, Tuesday 3-5pm, and Thursday 3-5pm
To meet with both of us, please schedule an appointment (Skype conference appointments are also available).

Texts:
• Dunn, Christopher *Brutality Garden: Tropicália and the Emergence of a Brazilian Counterculture*
• Fausto, Boris: *A Concise History of Brazil*
• Machado de Assis, Joachim Maria *The Posthumous Memoirs of Bras Cubas*
• Montero, Alfred *Brazilian Politics*
• Vianna, Hermano *The Mystery of Samba: Popular Music and National Identity in Brazil*

Additional readings
In addition to the above books, a number of chapters and articles have also been assigned and are available either through e-reserves or J-STOR.

Paulo Arantes, “Panic Twice in the City” at http://www.mediationsjournal.org/


DAAB—see Museu…


Donna M. Goldstein, *Laughter Out of Place: Race, Class, Violence, and Sexuality in a Rio Shantytown* (Berkeley: University of California), pgs. 102-135


James H. Kennedy, “Political Liberalization, Black Consciousness, and Recent Afro-Brazilian Literature,” *Phylon* 47, no. 3 (1986): 199-209. [JSTOR]

Peter Kingstone, *Crafting Coalitions for Reform: Business Preferences, Political Institutions, and Neoliberal Reform in Brazil* (College Park: Penn State University Press, 1999).


Francisco de Oliveira, “The Lenin Moment” at http://www.mediationsjournal.org/


Schwarz, Roberto *Misplaced Ideas: Essays on Brazilian Culture* (chapters 2, 4, 6, 10)


Maria do Carmo Campello de Souza, “The Brazilian ‘New Republic’: Under the ‘Sword of Damocles’” in *Democratizing Brazil*.


**Recommended materials:**

The following list of additional texts on e-reserve complements books and articles assigned and will be useful when exploring research topics. There are also other books and films on general reserve that you may peruse at your convenience:


Aarnoud Rommens, “In Other Words: Subaltern Epistemologies or How to Eat Humble Pie,” Image & Narrative 14 (July 2006).


Course description
This is the first of a two course sequence on Brazil. This course will study in depth the political-historical patterns of economic, social, and cultural development in Brazil from its colonial history to its current democracy and political economy. The case study of Brazil offers a wealth of lessons concerning the contradictions and possibilities of economic, social, and cultural development in the world today. We will explore these lessons both through its literature, music, architecture and the arts as they speak to the perils of the country’s insertion into global capitalism and in its
political history that reflects the difficulties of creating and deepening democracy and building centers of political authority in the context of growing social inequalities and industrialization.

Assignments and other student work

While the main purpose of this program is to train students to engage in a substantial research project on Brazil, it also underscores the need to deepen knowledge and conceptual understanding of major ideas, historical periods, cultural and institutional tendencies in Brazilian studies. To that end, student work will be evaluated through a variety of methods.

Seminar presentations

Active participation as part of the seminar is a central enterprise of this program. Following the schedule, students will be assigned the responsibility of leading discussion on particular readings. This task will include preparing discussion questions before class and distributing them electronically to the rest of the seminar. Student discussion leaders will also be expected to prepare analytical remarks either in conjunction with the discussion questions or as a follow-up. No more than three students will act as discussion leaders during each session. All other students will be expected to follow through in their responsibilities to engage in discussion by preparing notes on the readings. Seminar presentations and discussion will compose the primary element of the participation score (see below).

In addition to presenting discussion questions and notes on the readings, each student will be asked to prepare commentaries on the films required in the course. There will be scheduled screenings for the films. If you cannot attend the screening, you must see the film on your own before class. All films will be on reserve in the Language Center.

Oral exam

As a culmination of the professors’ evaluation of student understanding of readings and discussions, each student will answer in a live, oral exam at least five questions during a single 30-minute session with both professors. This diagnostic is meant to provide a cumulative assessment of student knowledge and will be scheduled during finals. Please provide us early in the term with your preferred range of times for taking this exam.

Take-home exam

At two points during the term, students will be asked to select from a set of essay questions and prepare a 5-6 page written response per question within a time limit to be set by the professors.
The research proposal

As a research seminar, this course requires that students develop a deep understanding of a problem area or research question in Brazilian studies. To that end, by the conclusion of the term, each student will have assembled a 7-8-page proposal with a selected annotated bibliography. All proposals will include a research puzzle/question, a thesis/argument, a statement concerning the importance of this thesis, a discussion of the relevant literature, and a preliminary statement on the method to be employed in the research project. Some of you could have common areas of research and may do research in groups of two. However, the research reports will be prepared individually.

Projects in the seminar can be diachronic in nature, that is an issue that expands over a relatively long period of history, for example, the representation of black culture in a particular medium over time or the role of black social actors in specific parties or institutions; or the issue can be synchronic, that is it focuses on a phenomenon at a specific moment in time (it need not be the contemporary period), for example the rise of MPB (the protest music movement) during the transition to democracy or the emergence of an aesthetics of marginality under neoliberal conditions. All projects must account for the historical and political conjuncture (if synchronic in nature) or for the changes in the political and cultural system (if diachronic). The strength of an interdisciplinary research proposal for this course lies in its ability to present a deft and comprehensive understanding of the political and cultural factors that affect the research question. Bear in mind that during your two weeks in Brazil you will be able to visit locations and listen and speak to scholars about your research interest and you should think of how to best use this informal information to enrich the research project that you will finish and present during winter term.

Each student will develop their research proposals in consultation from the beginning of the trimester with both professors.

The grade breakdown follows:

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<tr>
<td>Seminar participation</td>
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<td>Oral examination</td>
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<td>Take-home exams</td>
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<td>The research proposal</td>
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Attendance and class etiquette:
- More than two unexcused absences in this course will result in an automatic 10% final grade reduction. Please always let us know if you will be missing class and the reasons for it.
- We expect everyone to be on time, prepared and ready to participate in class. Please bring no food or drinks to class. We will have a scheduled 5 minute break at 2pm in every class.
Course Schedule

Week 1

September 11: Framing Brazil and Colonial Beginnings

Montero, chs. 1-2.

Fausto, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.9, 1.10, 1.11.

September 12: Film: Nasci Mulher Negra @8pm in LDC 302

September 13: Analytics and Approaches: Culture, Identity, and Dependent Development

Lívia Neves de H. Barbosa, “The Brazilian Jeitinho: An Exercise in National Identity”

Roberto Schwarz, Essays on Brazilian Culture, ch. 2.

Peter Evans, Dependent Development: The Alliance of Multinational, State, and Local Capital in Brazil ch. 2.

Week 2

September 18: Literature in the Periphery of Capitalism: Machado de Assis


Schwarz, Misplaced Ideas chs. 5, 6, and 7, and Master on the Periphery of Capitalism ch. 10

September 20: The Construction of National Institutions, Identities, and Economies 
(A Velha República até a Revolução de 1930)

Fausto, 3.1-3.6.

Robert M. Levine, Father of the Poor? Vargas and His Era, ch. 2.

Week 3

September 25: Modern Culture and Identity  
(Tupi or not tupi: da semana moderna até antropofagia)

DAAB: All documents, pages 592-607 and Schwartz, pages 555-564.

Borsa Cattani “Places of Modernism in Brazil”

Styliane Philippou, “Modernism and National Identity in Brazil, or How to Brew a Brazilian Stew”

September 27: O Estado Novo and The Emergence of a National Political Economy


Alfred Stepan, The Military in Politics: Changing Patterns in Brazil pp. 57-84.


Week 4

October 1: Film: Escola de Samba @8pm in LDC 302

October 2: National Cultural Projects of the Estado Novo: the Case of Samba

Vianna The Mystery of Samba

October 4: Democratic Breakdown (1964), State-Led Development and Its Crisis


Stepan, The Military in Politics, ch. 7.

Fernando Henrique Cardoso, “On the Characterization of Authoritarian Regimes in Latin America.”

TAKE-HOME EXAM #1

Week 5

October 8: Film: Orfeu Negro @8pm in LDC 302
October 9: High Modernism: the Reign of Concrete  
Case studies: Brasília and Concrete Poetry  
Guest: Professor José Cerna Bazán

DAAB: Documents pages 608-609 and pages 626-637.


James Holston, “The Spirit of Brasília: Modernity as Experiment and Risk”

David E. Snyder, “Alternate Perspectives on Brasilia”

Lauro Cavalcanti, “When Brazil was Modern: From Rio de Janeiro to Brasilia’

Lawrence J. Vale, *Architecture, Power, and National Identity* (selections)

October 11: Democratization and the Resurrection of Civil Society

Thomas E. Skidmore, “Brazil’s Slow Road to Democratization: 1974-1985.”

Margaret Keck, “The New Unionism in the Brazilian Transition.”

Maria do Carmo Campello de Souza, “The Brazilian ‘New Republic’: Under the ‘Sword of Damocles’."

Week 6

October 15: Film: Terra em Transe @8pm in LDC 302

Guest: Professor Carol Donelan

DAAB: Documents 610-614

Robert Stam and Ismail Xavier, “The Baroque, the Modern, and Brazilian Cinema”

October 18: Political Institutions and Civil Society: A Feckless Democracy?

Montero, ch. 4.

Argelina Figueiredo and Fernando Limongi, “Presidential Power, Legislative Organization, and Party Behavior in Brazil.”

Week 7

October 22; Film: Central Station @8pm in LDC 302

October 23: The Rise of a Counter-Culture (2): *Antropofagia goes pop*
Dunn, chs 1-4
Schwarz, ch. 10

October 25: Dunn, chs. 5 and 6
Brutality Garden: in-class discussion with Christopher Dunn
Followed by talk in the Athaeneum @4:30pm:
“We are the Proposers”: Avantgarde and Counterculture in Brazil, 1964-1974"

Week 8

October 29: Film: Pixote @8pm in LDC 302

October 30: The Neoliberal State and Inequality

Montero, chs. 3, 5, and 7.

Peter Kingstone, *Crafting Coalitions for Reform: Business Preferences, Political Institutions, and Neoliberal Reform*, pages TBA.

November 1: Dreaming Equality

Robin E. Sheriff, *Dreaming Equality: Color, Race, and Racism in Urban Brazil*, pages 29-58


John Burdick, “Why is the Black Evangelical Movement Growing in Brazil?”

Week 9

November 5: Film: Strong Roots @8pm in LDC 302

November 6: Citizenship, Movements, and Popular Responses to Oppression

Montero, ch. 6.

Kathryn Hochstetler, “Democratizing Pressures from Below? Social Movements in the New Brazilian Democracy.”


**TAKE-HOME EXAM #2**

**November 8: Aesthetics of Dispossession**

Sebastian Salgado, *Terra: Struggle of the landless* (selections)

Malcolm K. McNee, “A Diasporic, Post-Traditional Peasantry: The *Movimento Sem Terra* (MST) and the Writing of Landless Identity”

Boal, Augusto. *Theater of the Oppressed* (selections)

Meirelles, Lund, Lins, *Cidade dos Homens* episode 1 (TV program on reserve in LDC)

**Week 10**

**November 12: Film: Carandiru @8pm in LDC 302**

**November 13: Cadê o PT e a democracia social?**

Montero, ch. 8.

Luis Felipe Miguel, “From Equality to Opportunity: Transformations in the Discourse of the Workers’ Party in the 2002 Elections”

Paulo Paiva, “Lula’s Political Economy: Changes and Challenges”

Benjamin Goldfrank and Aaron Schneider, “Competitive Institution Building: The PT and Participatory Budgeting in Rio Grande do Sul”

Francisco de Oliveira, “The Lenin Moment”

Arantes, Paulo: “Panic Twice in the City”

**FINAL RESEARCH PROPOSALS TO BE TURNED IN DURING YOUR FINAL ORAL EXAM**

**The Fieldwork During Winter Break (November 26 – December 7)**