INTS-4134/3708: Forever Emerging? The Developmental Trajectory of Modern Brazil

University of Denver
Josef Korbel School of International Studies
Summer Interterm 2019
Study Abroad Course in Rio de Janeiro
July 13-21

Instructors:
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Course Description
Brazil has the largest population, economy, and industrial base in Latin America. It is the seventh largest economy in the world, fifth largest country in land area, outranking the continental United States. Like the US, Brazilians are a mix of indigenous, European, and African peoples, along with subsequent inflows of Asian and Middle Eastern immigration, though race, ethnicity, and class have been interpreted with distinct cleavages and hierarchies. We will foster our understanding of Brazil through the country’s former capital, Rio de Janeiro, a city of numerous complexities, wonders, contradictions, challenges, and potential. By looking at the historical evolution of this fascinating city, the course will offer students an opportunity to study the evolution of Brazil, from the colonial period to the present day, when the country has increasingly been seen as a regional economic and diplomatic powerhouse, as well as a globally emergent player.
Likewise, by focusing on the historical trajectory of the so-called wondrous city of Rio de Janeiro, in an in-depth reflection structured along textual, visual, and in-sight materials and experiences, students will be invited to reflect about matters of change and continuity as well as how national socio-political trends are reflected in local contexts, thus also learning to reflect about the interpretive relationship between the micro-macro levels of analysis. Historical political and economic narratives, contemporary analysis of the country’s place in the world, films, music, architecture, guided visits to neighborhoods and local cultural institutions will be our explanatory prisms into the Carioca (Rio-based) spirit and cultural memories as expressions of national trends and trajectories.

In concrete terms, through lectures, seminar discussions, and field studies, we explore Rio’s renowned and sometimes notorious informality, from informal housing (favelas) to language, social organization and economic activities. We also explore themes such as tourism, the history of housing policies, and the transformation of local culture into ‘national’ and ‘export’ cultures. Moreover, by looking at the urban transformations over the last 200 years in particular, we will explore Brazil's drive to become an industrial power, as well as the new social conflicts produced by these efforts. Finally, we will investigate Brazil's contemporary culture, politics, sports, achievements, promises and continued challenges as it proceeds as a so-called emergent nation into the 21st century, while still struggling with its colonial past.

**Course Objectives**

As a thematic interdisciplinary course, the focus of the analysis here is centered on understanding how the urban landscapes of a major metropolitan city in the developing world can be indicative of, and thus serve as an analytical lens to understand, broader historical, domestic and international dynamics over time. Students will gain knowledge related to political institutions, social structural change, cultural practice, and economic development of Brazil. Students will identify critical periods of change in history, with particular attention to institutions and evolutions in political regimes and development patterns. Students will also understand the link between international insertion and domestic development, with attention to changes in international capital and commercial flows, domestic economic activity, and patterns of growth and distribution.

**General Requirement:**

You are expected to attend and to come prepared to participate in every class session and you are responsible for the material covered in the lectures, readings, and for any announcement made in class. Unexcused absences will affect your grade. While Portuguese is not required and all classes will be in English, the experience will be richer if students have some knowledge of Portuguese or Spanish.

**Grading Structure:** Your final grade will be based on the following:

- Attendance and active participation in class (20%)
- Movie Reports (20%)
- Reflection Journal (20%)
- Final Critical Essay/Internship Research Proposal (40%)

**Outcomes:**

Students will develop skills related to oral participation, multimedia analysis, qualitative fieldwork, critical thinking, and writing.
Oral participation skills will be evaluated in class participation, based on attending class, demonstrating that you have done all the reading for the class and are ready to share in and contribute to the discussion.

Multimedia analysis will be evaluated with movie reports (2 pp. each) addressing two audiovisual materials dealing with the topics of race relations in contemporary Brazil which will be made available for online streaming on Canvas.

Qualitative fieldwork will be evaluated in a daily journal of experiences that engages critically with the topics read, debated, and places visited in each day during the trip. The final compilation of these notes and reflection will be turned to the instructors on the final day of the course.

Writing skill will be also evaluated in the Final Essay (12 to 15 pp.) demonstrating how the readings and primary source materials covered in the course would help you examine a concrete historical event or an important characteristic of the historical evolution of Brazil. Your final paper will need to be based on field and historiographical research and include an analysis on how your time in Brazil enlightened your historical reflection on the topic chosen.

The topic of your paper is of your choosing but needs to be approved by the instructors and presented orally in class on the assigned date. Further instructions on these matters will be provided by the instructor in class.

Should you be doing an internship in Rio, and upon discussion with the instructors, the Final Essay could be converted into a Research Proposal related to your internship and based on the course learnings and field experiences.

**Grading Policy**
You are the main person responsible for your own performance in the course. The professor is always willing to meet individually with students to suggest ways in which you can perform at your best. But you should be proactive in seeking assistance as well as in keeping daily track of your work and progress.

**Grading Scale:**
The following grading scale will be used:

- A 100-95
- A- 94-90
- B+ 89-85
- B 84-80
- B- 79-76
- C+ 75-71
- C 70-66
- C- 65-61
- D 60-56
- D- 55-61
- F 60 or lower

**Special Accommodations**
Students who have disabilities or medical conditions and who want to request accommodations should contact Disability Services Program (DSP); 303-871-2372; 1999 E Evans Ave., 4th floor or Ruffatto Hall. Information is also available at www.du.edu/disability/dsp; see Handbook for Students with Disabilities.

**The Honor Code and Academic Integrity**
Students are expected to comply with the University Honor Code. Consult it carefully at http://www.du.edu/ccs/honorcode.html
Readings
Required readings will be available on Canvas. Recommended readings, also available on Canvas, will be marked with an asterisk (*).

Schedule of Classes, Readings, and Activities

Before Departure: Class Orientation Meeting (TBD)

Day 1: Saturday, July 13
- Suggested Travel Day (departure from the US)

Day 2: Sunday, July 14
- Arrive in Rio (half-day resting)
- Afternoon: Understanding the Brazilian Elite
  o Neighborhood tour of Ipanema-Leblon.
- Evening: Dinner together.

Day 3: Monday, July 15
- Morning: Classroom time (Introduction to the Study of Brazil)
  Reading assignments:
  o Skidmore, Introduction, chapters 1, 2 & 3
- Afternoon: Understanding the Geography of Cities
  o Visit to the Sugarloaf (weather permitting!)

Day 4: Tuesday, July 16
- Morning: Classroom time (Building a Modern Brazil: Top-Down).
  Reading assignments:
  o Skidmore, chapters 5 & 6
- Afternoon: Understanding Brazilian modernization
  o Visit to Paco imperial, Convento de Santo Antonio, Real Gabinete de Leitura, Teatro Municipal.
Day 5, Wednesday, July 17

- **Morning:** Classroom time (Democratic Demise and Bureaucratic-Authoritarian Development).
  Reading assignments:

- **Afternoon:** Understanding Brazilian inequality
  - Watch City of God

**First Movie Report due by midnight

Day 7, Friday, July 19

- **Morning:** Classroom time (Democracy at Last).
  Reading assignment:

- **Afternoon:** Understanding urban poverty
  - Visit to Santa Teresa.

Day 8, Saturday, July 20

- **Morning:** Classroom time (Democracy at Last).
  Reading assignment:
  - *Laverne, Remi, The Bolsa Familia Program: Replacing Politics with Biopolitics
  - *Amorim, Celso, Brazilian Foreign Policy under President Lula: an overview

- **Afternoon:** Understanding Brazilian politics
  - Watch Marighela

- **Evening:** Farewell Dinner.
Day 9, Sunday, July 21
Return to the US

Tuesday, July 23

** 2nd Movie report, Journal Reflection and Critical Essay due
(by email to both professors by the end of the day).