In 2011, Brazil surpassed the United Kingdom to become the sixth-largest economy in the world. This course is an interdisciplinary exploration of the contemporary emergence of Brazil as global economic, geopolitical, cultural, and religious power. We will also examine how Brazil is imagined abroad and by Brazilians themselves, as they make sense of their country’s evolving position in the world. The course is designed to coincide with the theme of the Center for Latin American Studies’ 2013 annual conference. As such, it will draw on a variety of speakers, both on campus and attending the conference. Through a variety of media, including scholarly books, works of fiction, newspaper articles, films, documentaries, and the Internet, we will analyze the global spread of diverse phenomena ranging from Brazilian Neo-Pentecostalism, Santo Daime, churrascarias, Capoeira, vale-tudo, MPB, (tele)novelas, and the works of Paulo Coelho.

**OBJECTIVES**

1. To understand the social, economic, political, and cultural processes that have shaped contemporary Brazil as it re-positions itself in the evolving global (dis)order.

2. To explore the dynamics of globalization in Latin America through the case of Brazil.

3. To use the small seminar setting to sharpen students’ expository writing skills as well as their ability to articulate and defend their own analytical perspectives.

**REQUIREMENTS**

1. **Two Short Response Papers (for undergraduates) – Four Short Response Paper (for graduate students).** These papers, which will be 4-5 pp. in length, will address key issues, concepts, arguments, and questions raised in each section of the course. The objective of these papers is to encourage students to synthesize the readings and class discussions and articulate their own informed and analytically nuanced positions. Since students will have time to work on these papers, I expect all essays to be well-developed, with good grammar, spelling, and syntax. I place a premium on analytical thinking. To help you out, I am happy to go over drafts, provided that they are submitted with enough anticipation. Portuguese majors can submit their papers in Portuguese to receive the appropriate credit. The papers are due on the Monday following the end of the specific sections to which they respond. They constitute 40% of the final grade.

2. **A Report on a Conference Panel.** Students will report on the key issues, concepts, and methodological and theoretical approaches discussed during one of the panels at the “Emergent Brazil” conference, which will take place on February 13-14. This report will include an informal conversation
with one of the presenters, seeking to flesh out the proceedings. The report will be 5-6 pp. in length and it will be worth 15% of the final grade.

3. A Final Research Paper, focusing on a topic related to the course. The length of the research paper will be 20-25 pages for graduate students and 10-12 pp. for undergrads. Topics will be selected in consultation with the instructor early in the semester. A one-page abstract detailing the topic and guiding questions/hypotheses as well as a one-page preliminary bibliography will be due on 02/11. The abstract and bibliography will be worth 5% of your final grade, while the paper will be worth 25%, for a total of 30%.

4. Attendance, Active Participation, and Quizzes: Students are expected to attend class regularly and punctually and to participate actively in class discussion. Absences will be allowed only under very special circumstances, such as a medical emergency. In that case, students must bring a doctor’s note. Active and informed participation demands that students read the material carefully before coming to class. The instructor reserves the right to give quizzes at any time during the course. In most circumstances, students will not be allowed to make up missed quizzes. Attendance, participation, and quizzes represent 15% of your final grade.

RULES

1. Plagiarism or cheating: Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. On the issue of plagiarism and cheating, I operate under a zero tolerance policy. Students caught plagiarizing or cheating will automatically receive a grade of zero on the assignment in question and will fail the course. In addition, they will be reported to the appropriate university authorities. Please keep in mind that plagiarism does not consist only in copying verbatim someone else's material and presenting it as if it were yours. It also includes taking ideas (even paraphrased!) from an author without according him/her proper recognition (through a footnote, for instance). Other forms of cheating (particularly downloading material from the Internet and presenting as if it were yours) will also be subject to the same action. See http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.htm for more information on UF policies.

2. Incompletes are strongly discouraged and will be given only when students who have finished most of the assignments satisfactorily cannot complete the final requirements due to unforeseen events. If this is the case, students must arrange for the incomplete before the end of the semester.

3. Late papers: Unless students can present proper, legitimate written documentation (in the form of a medical excuse or a funeral notice, for example) to justify their inability to turn in assignments on time, I will deduct half a grade (e.g., from A to A-) for every day the paper is late. In case there is a legitimate excuse, the student must immediately arrange with the instructor an alternative due date for the assignment.

4. Grading Scale: A: 100-95; A-: 94-90; B+: 89-87; B: 86-84; B-: 83-80; C+: 79-77; C: 76-74; C-: 73-70; D+: 69-67; D: 66-64; D-: 63-60; E: <60.

5. I expect students to treat each other with civility and respect. I hope that our debates will be lively and that people will feel free to express their opinions and disagree with each other. However, these opinions and disagreements have to be presented in a manner that is appropriate to an academic setting.

6. Students engaging in any sort of disruptive behavior, including passing notes, reading a newspaper,
playing computers games, checking their e-mail, or chatting while lectures and class discussions are taking place, will be asked to leave the classroom. They will be counted as absent for that particular day. Please turn phones and pagers off during class.

7. Please make sure to arrive to class on time. I dislike being interrupted once class has started.

8. Students with Disabilities. Students requesting classroom accommodation or special consideration must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation or special consideration.

REQUIRED READINGS

Books


Additional Readings (available through e-learning -- Sakia)


SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Part I: Historical and Cultural Background

Tues. 01/08: General Introduction to the Course: No Readings

Thurs. 01/10: Approaching Brazil
Readings: None
Film: Bruno Barreto, Dona Flor and her Two Husbands (1976)

Tues. 01/15: The Socio-Genesis of Brazil I
Readings: Rohter, Brazil on the Rise, Introduction and Chapter One (pp. 1-32)

Thurs. 01/17: The Socio-Genesis of Brazil II
Readings: Rohter, Brazil on the Rise, Chapter 3 (pp. 59-79)
Freyre, The Masters and the Slaves, Chapter I (pp. 3-80).

Tues. 01/22: What Makes Brazil, Brazil?
Readings: Rohter, Brazil on the Rise, Chapter 2, (pp. 33-57)
Barbosa, “The Brazilian Jeitinho,” (pp. 35-48)

Thurs. 01/24: What Makes Brazil, Brazil? A Retake
Readings: Rohter, Brazil on the Rise, Chapter 4, (pp. 81-105)
DaMatta, from Carnivals, Rogues, and Heroes, (pp. 61-136)

Tues. 01/29: Does it Make Sense to Talk about a Unified Brazilian Culture?
Readings: DaMatta, “Brazil: An Overview.”

Part II: Brazil as a Global Economic Power

Thurs. 01/31: The Economic Bases of Brazil’s Rise
Readings: Rohter, Brazil on the Rise, Chapter 6, (pp. 139-170)
Brainard and Martinez-Diaz, Brazil as an Economic Superpower? pp. 1-13, 113-156.

*** First Short Paper Due on Monday, February 4th at 4PM ***

Tues. 02/05: Brazil as Agricultural and Energy Superpower
Readings: Rohter, Brazil on the Rise, Chapter 7, (pp. 171-200)

Thurs. 02/07: Brazilian Multinationals
Readings: Brainard and Martinez-Diaz, *Brazil as an Economic Superpower?* pp. 159-269; Mansor de Mattos, “Threats and Opportunities for Brazil’s Trade with China.”
Invited Speaker: Prof. Terry McCoy (tentative)

*** Paper Abstract and Bibliography Due on Monday, February 11th at 4PM ***

**Part III: Brazil and the Global Environmental Challenge**

Tues. 02/12: The Amazon in the Balance
Hecht and Cockburn, *The Fate of the Forest*, Preface and Chapter One and Two (pp. vii–ix, 1-37)

Thurs. 02/14: Center for Latin American Studies Conference
Readings: None – Attend the conference

Tues. 02/19: The Environmental Challenge I
Readings: Hecht and Cockburn, *The Fate of the Forest*, Preface and Chapters 3-5 (pp. 38-103)

Thurs. 02/21: The Environmental Challenge II: The Fate of Indigenous Populations
Readings: Hecht and Cockburn, *The Fate of the Forest*, Chapter 6-9 and Afterword (pp. 104-239, 345-362); Diamond and Poirier, “Brazil’s Indigenous People and the Belo Monte Dam.”
Documentary: Amazon Watch, “Defending the River.”
Invited Speaker: Prof. Robin Wright (tentative)

*** Second Short Paper Due on Monday, February 25th at 4PM ***

**Part III. Brazilian Culture at Large**

Tues. 02/26: Music I
Readings: Rohter, *Brazil on the Rise*, Chapter 5 (pp. 107-137)
Perrone and Dunn, *Brazilian Popular & Globalization*, Chapter 1 (pp. 1-38)

Thurs. 02/28: Music II: From Bossa Nova and Samba to Funk
Readings: Perrone and Dunn, *Brazilian Popular & Globalization*, Chapters 2-6, 8-10, 16 (pp. 39-122, 136-176, 258-269)
Invited Speaker: Prof. Charles Perrone (tentative)

Tues. 03/05: Spring Break

Thurs. 03/07: Spring Break

Tues. 03/12: Literature I: The Case of Paulo Coelho
Thurs. 03/14: Literature II: Brazilian Science Fiction
Readings: Ginway and Causo, “Discovering and Re-discovering Brazilian Science Fiction”
Film: Jorge Furtado, *Isle of Flower* (1989)
Invited Speaker: Prof. Elizabeth Ginway (tentative)

*** Conference Report Due on Monday, March 11th at 4PM ***

Tues. 03/19: Religion I: Brazil as a Religious Superpower

Thurs. 03/21: Religion II: Brazilian Christianity and African-Based Religions

Tues. 03/26: Religion III: New Religious Movements

Thurs. 03/28: Media I: Television

Tues. 04/02: Media II: Cinema and Social Media

Thurs. 04/04: Sports: The World Cup and Olympics

*** Third Short Response Paper Due on Monday, April 8th at 4PM ***

Part IV. Global Cities and Migrants

Tues. 04/09: Urban Issues I: Dystopian-Utopian Visions
Thurs. 04/11: Urban Issues II: Dystopian-Utopian Visions
Invited Speaker: Prof. Charles Wood (tentative)

Tues. 04/16: Brazilians in the United States
Readings: Margolis, An Invisible Minority, Preface and Chapters 1-3 (pp. ix-68); Fussell, “Hurricane Chasers in New Orleans.”

Thurs. 04/18: Transnational and Return Migration: Brazil as a Country of Settlement?
Invited Speaker: Prof. Maxine Margolis (tentative)

*** Fourth Short Response Paper Due on Monday, April 22
nd at 4PM ***

Tues. 04/23: Brazil, Quo Vadis?

*** Final Paper Due on: TBA ***