

# Brazilian Culture and Social Justice

(POBS 610: Mapping Portuguese-Speaking Cultures: Brazil)

Department of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies, Brown University

Fall 2019

## Course information:

Meeting time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-2:20p

Meeting location: Rockefeller Library, Room 206

Instructor: Jordan Jones (jordan\_jones@brown.edu)

Office hours: Tuesdays 2:30-3:30pm, or by appointment, at 302 Meiklejohn House (159 George St.)

## Course description:

In this course we will examine works by Brazilian authors and artists to explore the following questions: How can art, literature, and culture affect efforts for social justice? What expectations are placed on readers and viewers of these works? How is Brazilian cultural production distinct in the struggle for human rights and social justice? Through class readings, discussions, and assignments we will think about these questions. We will also consider how they relate to issues of social, ethnic, racial, gender, and other differences with respect to human rights. Finally, we will look into how and whether culture can be used as a vehicle for promoting human rights—especially for those on the margins of society.

## Prerequisites:

This course is open to all undergraduate students who have completed POBS 110 (or equivalent) and POBS 400, or who have instructor permission.

## Required texts:

In this course we will study a variety of books, films, songs, etc. Shorter texts will be made available through Canvas or other means. You may purchase the books or request them through interlibrary loan, but please make sure you are getting the Portuguese-language versions of the following:

Graciliano Ramos: *Vidas secas*

Luiz Ruffato: *Eles eram muitos cavalos*

Conceição Evaristo: *Ponciá Vicêncio*

Marcelo D'Saete: *Cumbe*

Carolina Maria de Jesus: *Quarto de despejo*

## Reasonable Expectation of Time Spent on Coursework:

Over 14 weeks, you will spend 2.5 hours per week in class (35 hours total). Additionally, you will either 1) attend film screenings or 2) watch the films on your own. Film viewing will take, on average, 2 hours/week for 12 weeks, or 24 hours total. Required reading of 5 novels, various short stories, theoretical texts, in addition to writing discussion questions/response papers in preparation for the class meetings, is expected to require approximately 6 hours per week (84 hours). In addition, completing a creative project, film/literary review, final project outline, contextual paper, and final project, along with editing writing, is estimated to take 40-50 hours over the course of the term. Your total working hours for the course should equal a minimum of 180 hours. Actual times will vary for each student. Furthermore, final grades are not determined by the amount of time you spend on the course.

## Learning objectives:

The following learning objectives will guide our work this semester:

Content — Students will be able to...

- Demonstrate sufficient cultural and historical awareness to evaluate engagement with social justice in Brazil, including the effectiveness of strategies used by artists, authors, and others to promote social justice and human rights
- Respectfully and productively discuss the concept of “otherness” regarding various identities and perspectives

Technical Skills — Students will develop their...

- Close reading and analytical writing skills, including the ability to articulate a cohesive argument, formulate a relevant thesis, organize evidence effectively, etc.
- Oral communication skills, through both class discussions and individual presentations
- Research skills, including their ability to effectively evaluate and incorporate outside sources.
- Proficiency in Portuguese in the following areas: writing, speaking, reading, listening, vocabulary

### Assignments:

To work toward the learning objectives articulated above (and in addition to other assignments given throughout the semester), students will do the following:

1. Posted responses: Before each class period you will submit a response to the work you read or viewed in preparation for that class. These will vary from posting to posting, and may include things like answering questions I ask, submitting your own questions about the work, bringing in news articles that relate to class discussion, recording short audio responses, etc. Please check Canvas regularly to view expectations for each response.
2. Write an opinion editorial (450-750 words) on a topic related to social justice in Brazil
3. Write a second opinion editorial (450-750 words) analyzing how effective a specific text or work is at promoting social justice
4. Give an in-class oral presentation (10-15 mins.) about an author/artist not listed on the syllabus
5. Write four additional scenes (800-1000 words total) to complement our reading of *Eles eram muitos cavalos*
6. Write and perform an original poem, rap, or song in the class’s *Sarau de Poesia*
7. Complete a two-part final project including research and creative aspects, for which students will choose from the following options (these lists may be adjusted later in the semester):
  - a. For Part I, creating one of the following: a Wikipedia entry, a graphic short story, or a written short story
  - b. For Part II, creating one of the following: a radio interview, a podcast, or a YouTube video
8. Extra credit opportunities: Throughout the semester there will be lectures and other events that relate to topics we discuss in class. You may attend 2-3 of these and complete a written reflection for extra credit. More information will be given throughout the semester.

### Course expectations and grading:

As with any other course, doing the readings, coming to class on time, and participating actively are essential to succeeding in this class. The grade breakdown will be as follows:

Participation and in-class activities (including PEN event):	25%
Reading/viewing assignments and posted responses*:	15%
(*the format of these will vary, but they are due by 10am on the day of class):	

In-class presentations (author/artist report, <i>Sarau de Poesia</i> ):	10%
Writing assignments (opinion editorials, four creative scenes):	25%
Final project:	25%

Your adherence to the following expectations will factor into your participation grade, which will be evaluated by both the student and the instructor four times in the semester:

- **Preparation and participation in class:** Students are expected to be polite, prepared, and professional when interacting with classmates and the professor, both in and out of class. This includes completing reading/viewing/listening assignments before class, arriving on time, participating actively, and using electronics responsibly—and only for class-related purposes. I hope you share your ideas and expect you to respect others' opinions, helping to create a collaborative classroom environment.
- **Absences and tardies:** You are allowed one unexcused absence, but after that each additional absence will lower your final grade by 2%. Arriving 1-10 minutes late (or leaving 1-10 minutes early without permission) constitutes a tardy, and every 3 tardies equates to 1 unexcused absence. Arriving more than 10 minutes late (or leaving more than 10 minutes early) is considered an unexcused absence. In short, unexcused absences and tardies will lower your participation grade and will hamper your ability to successfully complete this course. So please come, and come on time, ready to engage.
- **Communication and office hours:** You are expected to check your email daily for updates regarding class activities and assignments. You can expect responses to emails you send me within 48 hours (but usually earlier), excluding weekends. Please feel free to meet with me during office hours, or to schedule appointments at another time if that time does not work for you. I want this course to be meaningful and am happy to make adjustments to the class, so please give me feedback on how things are going. I may ask you to meet with me periodically throughout the semester to check in and discuss any issues that might arise.
- **Academic integrity:** Academic honesty is extremely important to me, and I expect you to be fully honest in only submitting your own original work, produced specifically for this class. Doing so allows me to gauge your progress and effectively adopt strategies to help you develop your language and writing skills. Unless explicitly permitted in an assignment description, seeking aid from translation tools, Portuguese-speaking friends or family, other outside sources, etc., is not permitted and constitutes plagiarism, which will not be tolerated. The only exception to this is help received from tutors during the mandatory Clube da Escrita appointments, required for each writing assignment.

Allowing other students to benefit from work that is not their own, failing to acknowledge sources consulted or used in your own work, and other forms of academic dishonesty will likewise not be tolerated and will result in your losing credit for the associated assignments and possibly the entire course. For more detailed information about academic integrity expectations in this course, please see the [Brown Academic Code](#).

If you have questions about how to complete assignments successfully, please come talk to me. If you are unsure how to cite sources in your work, please consult with me in office hours, or go to the Writing Center. The [Purdue Online Writing Lab](#) is a useful resource for knowing how to cite sources and for [double checking to ensure you are not plagiarizing](#).

### Accessibility and accommodations:

Courses in Portuguese and Brazilian Studies abide by the inclusive, non-discrimination policies of Brown University. Please inform me if you have a disability or other condition that might require accommodations or modification of any of our course procedures. As part of this process, you should be registered with Student and Employee Accessibility Services (SEAS) and provide an accommodation letter to support your request. For more information, contact SEAS at 401-863-9588 or SEAS@brown.edu. Class rosters with students' legal names are provided through Banner to instructors. I will honor requests to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun.

### Sexual Harassment Policy:

This class will adhere to the following statement, taken from the university [Sexual Harassment Policy](#): "Brown University, through its policies and procedures, seeks to provide an environment that is free from sexual harassment and sexual assault. Such conduct seriously undermines the atmosphere of trust and respect that is essential to a healthy work and academic environment. This policy applies to all members of the university community in both on-and off campus Brown University sponsored events and activities. All members of the Brown community are encouraged to report promptly complaints about sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual assault to the grievance resolution officials. Persons found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action which may include, but is not limited to, written warning, demotion, transfer, suspension, expulsion, dismissal or termination."

### Weekly Breakdown:

<u>Theme</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>To Read/View Before Class</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Assignments Due</u>
Indigenous rights	9/5 (Thu)	Indigenous Poetry (G. Graúna and Eliane Potiguara)	6 pages	Writing diagnostic (in class)
Indigenous rights	9/10 (Tues)	<i>Martírio</i> (film)	162 mins	Posted response
Indigenous rights	9/12 (Thu)	Carta Guarani/Carta de Achamento/André Vallias (in class)	25 pages	Posted response
Indigenous rights	9/17 (Tues)	Daniel Munduruku, "O menino que não sabia sonhar"	32 pages	Posted response
Environment	9/19 (Thu)	<i>Damocracy</i> (Film) Eliane Brum, Belo Monte: "Vítimas de uma guerra amazônica"	34 mins 20 pages	Posted response; Sign up for oral presentation topics/dates
Environment	9/24 (Tues)	Guimarães Rosa: "Meu tio o iauaretê" Gustavo Pacheco: "Dohong" Renan Barbosa: " <a href="#">Animais 'quase gente'</a> "	45 pages	Posted response
Environment	9/26 (Thu)	<i>Vidas Secas</i>	160 pages	Posted response
Migrants in the City	10/1 (Tues)	Luiz Ruffato <i>Eles eram muitos cavalos</i> scenes 6, 14, 40, 41, 48, 50, 57	20 pages	Posted response
	10/2 (Wed)	<b>**Opinion editorial 1 due by midnight**</b>		
Migrants in the City	10/3 (Thu)	<i>A hora da estrela</i> (film)	96 mins	Posted response
Migrants in the city	10/8 (Tues)	Conceição Evaristo, <i>Ponciá Vicêncio</i> (excerpts)	118 pages	Posted response

Slavery	10/10 (Thu)	Machado de Assis “Pai contra mãe” / <i>Quanto vale ou é por quilo?</i> (film)	11 pages; 110 mins	Posted response
Slavery	10/15 (Tues)	Castro Alves, “Navio negreiro” Caetano Veloso song “Navio negreiro”	6 pages	Posted response
Slavery	10/17 (Thu)	Belisário Franca, <i>Menino 23</i> (film)	80 mins;	Posted response
Race	10/22 (Tues)	Marcelo de Saete, <i>Cumbe</i> : “Sumidouro,” “Cumbe,” “Malungo”	115 pages	Posted response
Race	10/24 (Thu)	Short stories: Cristiane Sobral: “Cauterização,” Valdomiro Martins: “Entrevista de emprego,” Gabriela Caldas: “Mamãe quero ser branca;” <i>Cores e botas</i> (film) and <i>Vista minha pele</i> (film)	25 pages; 43 mins	Posted response
	10/26 (Sat)	<b>**Four additional scenes due by midnight**</b>		
Race	10/29 (Tues)	Poems about race: Cristiane Sobral – <i>Não vou mais lavar os pratos</i> (selections) Conceição Evaristo – <i>Poemas da recordação e outros movimentos</i> (selections) Mel Duarte – “Negra. Nua. Crua.” Guibson Medeiros – “Racismo” “Racismo” (anônimo)		Posted response
Race	10/31 (Thu)	Songs about race: “ <a href="#">Sou negrão</a> ” - Rappin’ Hood ( <a href="#">lyrics here</a> ) “ <a href="#">Rapaz comum</a> ” - Racionais MC ( <a href="#">lyrics here</a> ) “ <a href="#">Boa esperança</a> ” - Emicida ( <a href="#">lyrics here</a> ) “ <a href="#">Dedo na ferida</a> ” - Emicida ( <a href="#">lyrics here</a> ) “ <a href="#">Soldado do morro</a> ” - MV Bill ( <a href="#">lyrics here</a> ) “ <a href="#">Filme de terror</a> ” - Nega Gizza ( <a href="#">lyrics here</a> ) “ <a href="#">Negro é lindo</a> ” - Jorge Ben Jor ( <a href="#">lyrics here</a> ) “ <a href="#">Canto das três raças</a> ” - Clara Nunes ( <a href="#">lyrics here</a> ) “ <a href="#">Povo da raça Brasil</a> ” - Milton Nascimento ( <a href="#">lyrics here</a> ) “ <a href="#">A carne</a> ” - Elza Soares ( <a href="#">lyrics here</a> ) “ <a href="#">Breu</a> ” - Xênia França ( <a href="#">lyrics here</a> ) “ <a href="#">Sertanejo indígena</a> ” - Ademilson Umutina <a href="#">Bro MC’s</a>		Posted response
Race	11/5 (Tues)	Carolina Maria de Jesus, <i>Quarto de despejo</i> (selections)	100 pages	Posted response
Race	11/7 (Thu)	Geovani Martins: “A história do Periquito e do Macaco,” “Sextou,” and “Travessia” (short stories)	35 pages	Posted response

		Sacolinha: <a href="#">O final você já sabe</a> Project Marcelino Freire - <i>Contos negreiros</i> (selections)		
City and Class	11/12 (Tues)	Ferréz short stories (selections) Gidalti Jr.: <i>Castanha do Pará</i> (selections) Marcelo d'Saete: <i>Encruzilhada</i> (selections)		Posted response
City and Class	11/14 (Thu)	Luiz Ruffato, <i>Eles eram muitos cavalos</i> scenes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 17, 19, 20, 23, 28, 30, 35, 44, 45, 51, 52, 56, 61, 62, 63, 67, 69, 70 <a href="#">Tuca Vieira photos</a> **Skype w Luiz Ruffato	70 pages	Posted response
	11/16 (Sat)	<b>**Opinion editorial 2 due by midnight**</b>		
City and Class	11/19 (Tues)	Slam poetry/Saraus: Mel Duarte, Lucas Afonso, and others		Posted response
Gender	11/21 (Thu)	Adriana Lisboa, "Glória" Conceição Evaristo: "Eu-mulher," "Bendito o sangue de nosso ventre" Cristiane Sobral: "Sonho de consumo", "Caminhos", "Opção", "Nzingas Guerreiras", "Abrúptero", "Materna Idade", "Medo do escuro" **Skype w Adriana Lisboa	15 pages	Posted response
Gender	11/26 (Tues)	Short stories (selections)		Posted response
	11/28 (Thu)	Thanksgiving Break – no class		
Dictatorship	12/3 (Tues)	Ana Mércia Silva, <i>Diálogo para uma só personagem</i> **In-class Sarau de poesia**	26 pages	Posted response; <b>Perform composition, turn in lyrics/poem</b>
Dictatorship	12/5 (Thu)	Luiz F. Veríssimo: "Condomínio" Songs: "Para não dizer que não falei das flores," "Dançarina," "Pequena memória para um tempo sem memória," "Apesar de você," "Cálice" Antonio Henrique Amaral artwork	12 pages, 20 minutes	Posted response
	12/9 (Mon), 7-9:30pm	<b>**PEN (Performance and Exhibition Night)**</b> <b>[attendance required]</b>		
Contemporary Issues	12/10 (Tues)	Reading period; <i>Vinagre: Uma antologia de poetas neobarracos</i> (selections)		Posted response
Contemporary Issues	12/12 (Thu)	Reading period; <i>Minicontos para um futuro nenhum</i> Recap and reflection on main themes of semester	10 pages	Posted response
Final Exam	12/14 (Sat), 2-5pm	<b>**Final project due by midnight**</b>		