Cultura e comunidade
foco no Brasil

Reference Handouts

Educator Workshop
James Madison University
April 3, 2014

Memorial Hall, Hiner Room
9:00 A.M.—1:00 P.M.

Sponsored by JMU Latin American and Caribbean Studies; Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures; FLLC’s 2014 Conference: Violence: Empowerment or Self-Destruction; Cross Disciplinary Studies and Planning; College of Arts and Letters; Special Assistant to the President for Diversity; Office of International Programs; Political Science; History; Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies; General Education; and Sociology and Anthropology.

Materials assembled by Gray F. Kidd (gray.fielding.kidd@gmail.com)
**BRAZIL AT A GLANCE**


BRAZIL BY THE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quick Statistics</th>
<th>BRAZIL</th>
<th>UNITED STATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Currency</td>
<td>Real (BRL)</td>
<td>U.S. Dollar (USD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface area (square kilometers)</td>
<td>8514877</td>
<td>9629091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population (estimated, 000)</td>
<td>196655</td>
<td>313085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population density (per square kilometer)</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>32.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital city and population (000)</td>
<td>Brasilia (3813)</td>
<td>D.C. (4705)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN membership date</td>
<td>October 1945</td>
<td>October 1945</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Indicators</th>
<th>BRAZIL</th>
<th>UNITED STATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population growth rate (annual %)</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban population growth rate (&quot;')</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural population growth rate (&quot;')</td>
<td>-1.0%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban population %</td>
<td>84.9%</td>
<td>82.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural population %</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex ratio</td>
<td>96.8 males per 100 females</td>
<td>96.6 males per 100 females</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy at birth (females/males)</td>
<td>77.4 years / 70.7 years</td>
<td>81.3 years / 76.2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertility rate (live births per woman)</td>
<td>1.7 births</td>
<td>2.1 births</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education: % GDP expenditures</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unemployment (% labor force)</th>
<th>BRAZIL</th>
<th>UNITED STATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment in industry (2010 %)</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment in agriculture (2010 %)</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female adult labor force population (2011 %)</td>
<td>59.6%</td>
<td>57.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet users (2011, per 100 inhabitants)</td>
<td>45.0 users</td>
<td>77.9 users</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1 All data are for 2010 unless otherwise noted.
2 Data for Brazil are for males and females 10 years of age and older while U.S. data are for individuals 16 years of age and older.
BRAZILIAN FILMS AND DOCUMENTARIES

A. Feature Films

- indicates free streaming online
All other films should be obtained through a local library to ensure the availability of English subtitles.

General Interest

- Quilombo (1984)  
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLZTYINnXlc
  A film directed by Carlos Diegues that tells the story of Brazil’s most famous quilombo (a runaway slave community) in colonial Brazil. Known as Palmares, the community thrived for nearly 100 years.

- Terra em transe / Entranced Earth (1967)  
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cVB5rZDNOA (trailer)
  An award-winning drama directed by Glauber Rocha that contributes extensive, but couched, critiques of Brazil’s military government established in 1964. Using the fictitious country of Eldorado as a backdrop, the film identifies parallels between Brazil’s corruption in the twentieth-century and the founding of Brazil in 1500.

Urban Brazil

- Orfeu negro / Black Orpheus (1959)  
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ScMKo7LV3Rg (trailer)
  An interesting cinematic adaptation of the Greek legend of Orpheus and Eurydice directed by Marcel Camus. The film provides vibrant looks at the annual celebration of Carnival and it also considers social divisions in Rio de Janeiro.

- Cidade de Deus / City of God (2002)  
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lCsPdcO4euE (trailer)
  Traces the growth of the Cidade de Deus neighborhood in Rio de Janeiro in the late 1960s and early 1980s. The film was directed by Fernando Meirelles and co-directed by Kátia Lund. The award-winning film serves as a good introduction to Brazil’s existing problems with organized crime in urban centers.

- Pixote (1981)  
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCCK3k0Oktc
  Hector Babenco’s film assumes the form of a fictitious documentary. The project is a salient critique of delinquency, Brazilian social services organizations, organized crime, and police corruption.
Filmmaker Walter Salles’s project follows the travels of an aging woman and a young boy across Brazil. The film provides interesting and vivid depictions of a wide variety of social groups in the country.

**B. Selected Documentaries**

- *indicates free streaming online*
- *Most episodes are available to purchase on Amazon or the iTunes Store*

- **Discovery Atlas: Brazil Revealed (2006)**  
  http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/discovery-atlas-brazil-revealed/  
  The 2006 project is an excellent documentary introduction to Brazil that includes information about its distinct regions, pastimes, and everyday life.

- **PBS Black in Latin America series—Brazil: A Racial Paradise? (2011)**  
  Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. engages with Brazil’s legacy as the world’s largest slave economy in the western hemisphere. He challenges the misconception that Brazil is a “racial democracy”; that is, Brazilians do not discriminate based on race nor do they harbor racial prejudices.

- **BBC Documentary Brasil Brasil: From Samba to Bossa (2007)**  
  BBC’s documentary provides a sweeping overview of music in Brazil from samba to hip-hop. It also considers the urban landscape and its unique musical scenes.

- **BBC World Service Documentary Brazil: Lula’s Legacy (2011)**  
  http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/documentaries/2010/12/101223_doc_lula_brazil.shtml  
  Explores the presidency of one of the most popular politicians in Brazilian history, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, more commonly known as Lula. A member of the Workers’ Party (PT), Lula was born in the impoverished northeast, and his presidency was marked by many different social reforms. The project asks, “Is life now better for everyone in Brazil?”

- **Favela on Blast (2008)**  
  http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1353167/  
  The film sketches out funk carioca, a unique genre of music born in the favelas (slums) of Rio de Janeiro. It links the lives of Rio’s marginalized populations with the music they produce, and the documentary sheds light on a rich musical underworld with its own language and hero figures.
Like *Favela on Blast*, *Favela Rising* engages with music and life in the slums. This award-winning documentary focuses on the work of Anderson Sá, a former drug smuggler and forerunner in the AfroReggae Cultural Group. The grassroots movement provides an alternative education to at risk youth living in the favelas.

*Brasilia: Planned Capital City* (2007)

This recent project lays out the interesting history of Brazil’s capital—Brasilia. Constructed in the late 1950s in a unique modernist architectural style, Brasilia replaced Rio de Janeiro (RJ) as the capital of the country.

C. Scholarly Works

Many titles are available “used” on Amazon or B&N.com. * denotes featured speakers for Cultura e comunidade 2014.


Keo Cavalcanti, a Brazilian-born scholar and professor of sociology at James Madison University, reflects on his life as an immigrant and integrates his personal story within broader processes of immigration.


Daniel draws important distinctions between conceptions of race in Brazil and the United States. While historically North Americans have adopted binary understandings of race (black versus white), Brazilians have employed gradient spectrums to distinguish among the country’s mixed races. In recent decades, however, Daniel argues that Brazilian and North American ideas of race have joined.


Freyre’s immensely popular book traces the development of Brazilian culture and civilization. Although many scholars contend that his emphasis on “racial democracy” in the country is problematic (see comments for PBS’s Louis Gates documentary above), Freyre nevertheless provides colorful vignettes of Brazil and its constituent social groups.


Levine and his Brazilian colleague present the interesting, if not exceptional, story of Carolina Maria de Jesus (see *Child of the Dark* in Popular Literature below). The authors explore her life following the publication of her book, and they raise important questions about poverty, racism, and the sociopolitical status quo in Brazil.

This book looks at the favelas (slums) of Rio de Janeiro between the 1970s and 1990s. In so doing, McCann foregrounds grassroots activism, a pervading sense of democratic disillusionment, and a monopolization of armed violence.


McCann’s book asks how Getúlio Vargas’s Estado Novo dictatorship, the music industry, and industrialization converged to shape myriad musical cultures in Brazil between the 1920s and 1950s.


Perlman’s highly influential piece explores the lives of many different favela (slum) residents that she first met in 1969. The 2011 book revisits many of the same individuals and the author asks where the same groups are now and whether their lives have improved.


Like NYT reporter Larry Rohter (see below), Roett traces Brazil’s metamorphosis from a Portuguese colony to an important model for the “developing world.”


New York Times Reporter Larry Rohter presents an engaging narrative of modern Brazil, its subcultures, and its meteoric rise as an industrial powerhouse in the western hemisphere.


Professor Skidmore’s classic textbook serves as an excellent introduction to Brazil, its culture, and its historical contours.

D. Popular Literature

*Many titles are available “used” on Amazon or B&N.com.*


Alencar’s Indianist novel symbolizes the first meeting between whites and Amerindians through his tale of the relationship between a Tabajara Amerindian woman, Iracema, and a Portuguese colonist, Martim.

Amado’s frenetic novel blends comedy, drama, art, culture, and history in a rich depiction of the northeastern state of Bahia.


One of the most important literary works in Brazilian history, *The Slum* engages with questions of race, culture, politics, religion, and class-consciousness through the lens of a sprawling tenement community, or cortiço, at the turn of the century.


Favela resident Carolina Maria de Jesus was “discovered” by a Brazilian journalist in the late 1950s, and her account of life in the slums was published and subsequently earned critical acclaim.


The daughter of a Portuguese-Brazil mother and a British-Brazilian father, Alice Dayrell Caldeira Brant, known as Helena Morley, kept a diary of life in the small mining town of Diamantina, Minas Gerais at the turn of the century. The American poet Elizabeth Bishop translated it into English.


Vargas Llosa’s novel is a dramatization of Brazil’s bloodiest civil conflicts. During the Canudos War (1896-7), government forces laid siege to a revivalist religious community in the frontier region of Canudos in northeast Brazil. Supposedly under the spell of a wandering religious fanatic known as Antônio Conselheiro (Anthony the Counselor), simple country folk became increasingly disruptive and plotted to overthrow the country’s young republican government. *The War of the End of the World* provides a commentary of the conflict and considers larger questions of class, race, civilization, and progress at the turn of the century and beyond.