



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; FLC'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.

BRAZIL AT A GLANCE



Comparative size of Brazil. From E. Bradford Burns, *A History of Brazil*, 3rd ed. (New York, 1993), p. 14.



The five regions of Brazil. From E. Bradford Burns, *A History of Brazil*, 3rd ed. (New York, 1993), p. 11.

*Both images republished in Thomas E. Skidmore, *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*. Cary, NC: Oxford University Press, 1999.

BRAZIL BY THE NUMBERS¹Source: UN Data <http://data.un.org> (accessed March 28, 2014)**BRAZIL****UNITED STATES****Quick Statistics**

Currency	Real (BRL)	U.S. Dollar (USD)
Surface area (square kilometers)	8514877	9629091
Population (estimated, 000)	196655	313085
Population density (per square kilometer)	23.1	32.5
Capital city and population (000)	Brasília (3813)	D.C. (4705)
UN membership date	October 1945	October 1945


Social Indicators

Population growth rate (annual %)	0.8%	0.9%
Urban population growth rate (“)	1.2%	1.1%
Rural population growth rate (“)	-1.0%	0.6%
Urban population %	84.9%	82.7%
Rural population %	15.1%	17.3%
Sex ratio	96.8 males per 100 females	96.6 males per 100 females
Life expectancy at birth (females/males)	77.4 years / 70.7 years	81.3 years / 76.2 years
Fertility rate (live births per woman)	1.7 births	2.1 births
Education: % GDP expenditures	5.6%	5.4%
Unemployment (% labor force) ²	6.0%	8.9%
Employment in industry (2010 %)	22.1%	16.7%
Employment in agriculture (2010 %)	17.0%	1.6%
Female adult labor force population (2011 %)	59.6%	57.5%
Internet users (2011, per 100 inhabitants)	45.0 users	77.9 users

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=iCsPdcO4euE> (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=TCKK3k0OKtc>

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.

Central do Brasil / Central Station (1998)

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)

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/black-in-latin-america/featured/black-in-latin-america-full-episode-brazil-a-racial-paradise/224/>

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)

<http://www.musicismsanctuary.com/brasil-brasil-from-samba-to-bossa-bbc-documentary-part1/>

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.

Favela Rising (2005)
<http://www.favelarising.com>

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—Brasília. Constructed in the late 1950s in a unique modernist architectural style, Brasília 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*.

*Cavalcanti, Keo. *Almost Home: A Brazilian American's Reflections on Faith, Culture, and Immigration*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2012.

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, G. Reginald. *Race and Multiraciality in Brazil and the United States: Converging Paths?* University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2010.

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, Gilberto. *The Masters and the Slaves: A Study in the Development of Brazilian Civilization*. New York: Random House, 1964.

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, Robert M. and José Carlos Sebe Bom Meihy. *The Life and Death of Carolina Maria de Jesus*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1995.

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.

*McCann, Bryan. *Hard Times in the Marvelous City: From Dictatorship to Democracy in the Favelas of Rio de Janeiro*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2013.

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.

----- . *Hello, Hello Brazil: Popular Music in the Making of Modern Brazil*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2004.

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, Janice. *Favela: Four Decades of Living on the Edge in Rio de Janeiro*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

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.

Roett, Riordan. *The New Brazil*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, 2011.

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

Rohter, Larry. *Brazil on the Rise: The Story of a Country Transformed*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

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.

Skidmore, Thomas. *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

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, José Martiniano de. *Iracema, the Honey-Lips*. Trans. Lady Isabel Burton. London, 1886.

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, Jorge. *The War of the Saints*. Serpent's Tale, 1994.

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

Azevedo, Aluísio. *The Slum*. Ed. David H. Rosenthal. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

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.

Jesus, Carolina Maria de. *Child of the Dark: The Diary of Carolina Maria de Jesus*. New American Library, 1962.

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.

Morley, Helena. *The Diary of Helena Morley*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1995.

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, Mario. *The War of the End of the World*. Macmillan, 2008.

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.