

## CET Syllabus of Record

**Program:** Brazilian Studies and Portuguese Language in São Paulo

**Course Title:** Poverty and Inequality in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Brazil (English)

**Course Code:** SP/LAST 300

**Total Hours:** 45

**Recommended Credits:** 3

**Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings:** Latin American Studies / Political Science, Economics

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Prerequisites/Requirements:** None

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### Description

Establishing a sharp contrast with the image of Brazil as one of the most powerful emerging economies of the 21st century, this course explores the dynamic of its still largely poor population and the high degree of social inequality that permeates its society. In approaching the matter, students become exposed to the leading theories of poverty and underdevelopment that have been produced in the social sciences and engage in the analysis of the domestic and international factors that stall socio-economic and political progress in Brazil. Special emphasis is given to the implications of the neoliberal economic model in Latin America and the role of international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

### Objectives

- This course will acquaint the student with conceptualization and measurement issues in the study of poverty and inequality. In addition, it will enable him/her to identify domestic and foreign sources of poverty and underdevelopment in Brazil and Latin America.
- The student will familiarize him/herself with basic concepts of development studies, allowing him/her to adapt and interpret them in light of the Brazilian context.
- The student will gain hands-on experience by visiting relevant sites and interacting with diverse actors involved in efforts to achieve social change through religious, political and grassroots approaches.
- In class, each student will become exposed to the most salient postulates and interpretations in the literature of development studies. This will allow the student to gather theoretical tools that will make possible the critical assessment of contemporary arguments and debates.
- Lastly, the student will develop his/her awareness of class-related issues, and at the same time increase his/her degree of intercultural sensitivity.

### Course Requirements

The methodology of the course consists on class lectures, open discussions, and field visits to organizations and communities, related to the pursuit of social justice in diverse forms.

### Methods of Evaluation

The final grade will be based on the overall performance of each student in three areas:

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### *Reaction papers (2) - 40%*

Drawing on class material and personal observations, each student will elaborate two 5-page papers in which he/she reflects on some aspect of Brazil's socio-economic reality in light of the topics discussed in class.

### *Final paper - 40% (research proposal 10%, actual research 30%)*

This essay will be the product of an empirical, 15-page, in-depth investigation, drawing attention to the relationship between a current development issue in the Brazilian landscape and its relevance to any of the main topics discussed in class.

### *Participation & attendance - 20%*

This criterion is based on student's *active* presence and participation in class and other curricular activities. Special emphasis will be placed on the contribution of each student to the discussion sessions at the end of each unit.

### **Important:**

- 1. Assignments not turned in on the date they are due, will be subject to a penalty proportionate to the delay.**
- 2. Plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstances. If in doubt regarding what constitutes plagiarism, the student should consult with the professor.**
- 3. If due to unanticipated circumstances a student must turn in his/her assignment via email, he/she should not assume it was received until receipt is acknowledged by the professor.**

### **Primary Texts**

- Amann, Edmund and Werner Baer. 2002. Neoliberalism and its Consequences in Brazil, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 34 (4): 945-959
- Cunha, Dileine. 2008. *The Impact of Neoliberalism in Brazil in Light of Joseph Stiglitz's Post-Washington Consensus*. South-South Collaborative Programme, Occasional Paper Series no.12, [http://biblioteca.clacso.edu.ar/gsd/collect/clacso/index/assoc/D5374.dir/OP12\\_Cunha.pdf](http://biblioteca.clacso.edu.ar/gsd/collect/clacso/index/assoc/D5374.dir/OP12_Cunha.pdf)
- DeWitt, John. 2009. The alliance for progress: economic warfare in Brazil (1962-1964) *Journal of Third World Studies* (March, 22), [http://www.thefreelibrary.com/The alliance for progress: economic warfare in Brazil \(1962-1964\).-a0279892541](http://www.thefreelibrary.com/The+alliance+for+progress:+economic+warfare+in+Brazil+(1962-1964).-a0279892541)
- Dos Santos, Theotonio. 1970. The Structure of Dependence, in George T. Crane and Abla Amawi (Eds.) 1991, *The Theoretical Evolution of International Political Economy*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Ferreira, F. H. G. & Messina, J. & Rigolini, J. & López-Calva, L. F. & Lugo, M. A. & Vakis, R. (2013) Economic Mobility and the Rise of the Latin American Middle Class. Washington, The World Bank. Chap. 5 pp. 135-158.
- Freire, Paulo. 2005 [1970]. *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*. New York: Continuum.
- Hoffman, Kelly & Centeno, Miguel Angel (2003) 'The Lopsided Continent: Inequality in Latin America'. *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol. 29 (2003), pp. 363-390.
- Moseley, Mason and Matthew Layton. 2013. Prosperity and Protest in Brazil: The Wave of the Future for Latin America? *Americas Barometer Insights: 2013*, Number 9, LAPOP Group: Vanderbilt University, <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/insights/IO893en.pdf>

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- Neri, Marcelo. 2009. Income Policies, income distribution, and the distribution of opportunities in Brazil. In Brainard, Lael & Martinez-Diaz, Leonardo (eds.) (2009) *Brazil as an Economic Superpower? Understanding Brazil's Changing Role in the Global Economy*. Washington, Brookings Institution Press. [Chapters 9, pp. 221-270].  
[http://bibliotecadigital.fgv.br/dspace/bitstream/handle/10438/1717/BF\\_2008\\_submissao\\_EPGE\\_EnsaioEconomicos.pdf?sequence=3](http://bibliotecadigital.fgv.br/dspace/bitstream/handle/10438/1717/BF_2008_submissao_EPGE_EnsaioEconomicos.pdf?sequence=3)
- Plant, Roger. Issues in indigenous poverty and development. Inter-American Development Bank Report.
- Perlman, Janice. 2010. *Favela: Four Decades of Living on the Edge in Rio de Janeiro*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Ribeiro, Darcy. 2000. *The Brazilian People: The Formation and Meaning of Brazil*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida.
- Sachs, Jeffrey. 2005. *The End of Poverty*. *Time Magazine* (March 14th).
- Sen, Amartya. 2001. *Culture and Development*. World Bank Tokyo Meeting, December 13.
- Shiva, Vandana. 2005. *How to End Poverty: Making Poverty History and the History of Poverty*. *Z Net* (May 11th).
- Soares, Fábio V. & Ribas, Rafael P. & Osório, Rafael G. 2010. *Evaluating the Impact of Brazil's Bolsa Família. Cash Transfer Programs in Comparative Perspective*, *Latin American Research Review*, Volume 45, Number 2, pp. 173-190. Published by Latin American Studies Association.
- Sola, Lourdes. 2008. *Politics, Markets and Society in Lula's Brazil*, *Journal of Democracy*, Volume 19, Number 2, pp. 31-45
- Souza, Pedro H. G. F. 2011. *Poverty, Inequality and Social Policies In Brazil, 1995-2009*, Ipea, Working Paper (draft version) August, 2011.
- UNDP. 2012. *Human Development Report 2013: Overview. The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World*,  
<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/hdr/human-development-report-2013/>

### Supplementary Texts

- Brady, David. 2003. *Rethinking the Sociological Measurement of Poverty*, *Social Forces* 81, no. 3; 715-752.
- Draibe, Sônia M. 2007. 'The Brazilian Developmental Welfare State: Rise, Decline and Perspectives'. In: Riesco, Manuel (ed.) *Latin America: A New Developmental Welfare State Model in the Making?* Palgrave Macmillan, New York (pp. 239-281).
- Easterly, William. 2002. *The Cartel of Good Intentions*. *Foreign Policy* (July-August), 40-49.
- Florini, Ann. 2005. *The Coming Democracy*. Washington DC: Brookings Institution Press, 143-68.
- Kowarick, L. (ed.) (1994) *Social Struggles and the City: The case of São Paulo*. Monthly Review Press, New York.
- Nef, Jorge and Wilder Robles. 2000. *Globalization, Neoliberalism, and the State of Underdevelopment in the New Periphery*. In *Critical Perspectives on Globalization and Neoliberalism in the Developing Countries*, ed. Richard L. Harris and Melinda J. Seid, 27-48. Boston: Brill.
- Ocampo, Jose Antonio. 2001[?]. *Rethinking the Development Agenda*, updated versión of the presentation made at the Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association  
[http://www.undp.org/rblac/documents/poverty/rethinking\\_dev\\_agenda.pdf](http://www.undp.org/rblac/documents/poverty/rethinking_dev_agenda.pdf)

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- Portes, Alejandro & Hoffman, Kelly. 2003. Latin American Class Structures: Their Composition and Change during the Neoliberal Era. *Latin American Research Review*, Vol. 38, No. 1 (2003), pp. 41-82.
- Przeworski, Adam. 2003. A Flawed Blueprint. *Harvard International Review*, vol. 25 no. 1, 42-47.
- Rolnik, R. 2001. Territorial exclusion and violence: the case of the state of São Paulo. *Geoforum* 32(4): 471-482.
- Rostow, Walt W. 1960. *The Stages of Economic Growth*. London: Cambridge University Press, 1-16.

### Outline of Course Content

Week	Topic
Week 1	Course Overview: what is poverty and how do we measure it?
Week 2	If, when and how to help: philosophical underpinnings of the fight against poverty <i>Video: Why Poverty?</i>
Week 3	Brazil and Latin America in comparative perspective: how developed is developed? Democracy, poverty and inequality.
Week 4	Brazilian perceptions of society, labor and the economy I <b>Field Experience: Velhã</b>
Week 5	Brazilian perceptions of society, labor and the economy II
Week 6	Poverty, development and inequality: concepts and measurements I ( <i>poverty as subsistence and as deprivation, definitions and measurements of poverty, the cesta básica and expressions of poverty in Brazil</i> ) <i>Video: Waste Land</i>
Week 7	<b>Field Experience: Salvador, Bahia</b>
Week 8	Poverty, development and inequality: concepts and measurements II ( <i>endogenous and exogenous measurements of development, intentionality as key to setting the development agenda, inequality and its manifestation in social and political phenomena</i> ) <i>Video: Pixo</i> <b>Reaction Paper #1</b>
Week 9	Modernization theory: the traditional vs. modern debate ( <i>development strategy as a political tool, national liberation movements in the Brazil and their impact on the development agenda, import-substitution industrialization under the Vargas government, the Alliance for Progress and the response of the Goulart Administration</i> )
Week 10	Domestic sources of poverty and underdevelopment: contemporary trends ( <i>social exclusion, culture, social capital, corruption, expansionist policies, weak institutions, illiteracy, demographics, rural poverty and indigenous identity</i> ) Answers from below and from above: Analyzing the potential of grassroots organizations and NGOs for achieving development
Week 11	<b>Field Experience: Aldeia Indígena</b>
Week 12	DISCUSSION SESSION #1

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	<b>Reaction Paper #2</b>
Week 13	<b>Field Experience: MST</b>
Week 14	Structuralism and dependency theory: the center and periphery interpretation ( <i>a solution from within the Third World and its impact on hegemonic discourse, ECLAC and Marxist influence, Cardoso and Furtado, orthodox and unorthodox variants</i> )
Week 15	Foreign sources of poverty and underdevelopment: contemporary trends The neoliberal model: Ideological and economic foundations ( <i>the depression and the welfare state, the trickle-down effect, the Washington Consensus, Franco and the Plano Real, consolidation under Cardoso</i> ) Structural adjustment programs and the policies of post-Neoliberalism ( <i>The Lula phenomenon, Bolsa Familia, Brasil Sem Miséria, Mais Médicos, political empowerment via economic empowerment, the June 2013 protests and their implications for the government's social agenda</i> )
	<b>Final paper due: 05/30/16</b>