Program: CET Brazil: Social Justice & Inequality in São Paulo
Course Code / Title: (SP/LAST 330) Contemporary Issues in Brazilian Society
Total Hours: 45
Recommended Credits: 3
Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Latin American Studies / Social Science, Economics
Language of Instruction: English
Pre-requisite / Requirements: Prior coursework in economics, sociology and history recommended but not required.

Course description

This course covers the Brazilian contemporary social issues and examines current issues. A brief historicizing gives meaning and understanding to issues such as citizenship. Citizenship, religion, race and development will be discussed in the first block.

Objectives

Provide students with knowledge, allowing them to understand social dynamics in Brazil. By the end of the course, students are able to understand the roots and the contours of Brazilian society.

Course Requirements

The methodology of the course consists on class lectures, open discussions on the content assigned at the discretion of professor. Some of these discussions will be based on the assignments you submit individually or as a group. Weekly readings, ranging from 15 to 40 pages, are assigned. It is imperative that each student completes the assigned reading in a timely fashion, as this enables him/her to actively participate in class. Class/activity attendance and active participation constitute one of the evaluation criteria for this course.

Course Dynamics

This is a 45-hour course, with afternoon presentations, readings and guided visits. Attendance of 80% is required. The final grade is based on overall student performance in three areas:
1- Three posts, in which the student reflects on news in light of the issues discussed in class.
2- One final paper, product of an in-depth, semester-long investigation.

This essay will be the product of an empirical, 10-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.
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3- Participation and attendance, based on the student’s active presence and participation in class and other curricular activities. Special emphasis is made on the contribution of each student during the semester discussion sessions. Assignments not turned in on the date they are due, are subject to a penalty proportionate to the delay. Plagiarism is not tolerated under any circumstance. If due to unanticipated circumstances a student must turn in his/her assignment via email, he/she should not assume it was received until the professor acknowledges receipt.

Grading

The final grade is based on the overall performance of each student in three areas:
Post answers (3) 30%
Final paper 50% (research proposal 10%, actual research 40%)
Participation 20%

Although students are evaluated according to PUC-SP practices, grade appeals are handled through CET as prescribed by CET Academic Policies.

Attendance

Attendance requirements are outlined in the CET Attendance Policy.

Primary Texts

There is no assigned text for this course. Instead, students read a selection of articles and chapters coming from academic journals, magazines and online sources.

Supplementary Texts

Documentaries and various websites

Outline of Course Content

In addition to the topics listed below, there will be a technical visit. Professors are only suggestions and could be changed.

Week 1
Historical background I: 1500-2015

Week 2
Historical background I: 1500-2015


Week 3
Race, class and representation

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Week 4
Race, class and representation II


Week 5
Dictatorship and protest music – a cultural approach of the Regime Militar
15 selected songs from dictatorship period

Week 6
Gender and homophobia in Brazil


Week 7
Religious Issues
Speaker: Frank Usarski


Week 8
The city and its protests: urban mobility and the appropriation of public space I.
Documentary: PIXO

Week 9
The city and its protests: urban mobility and the appropriation of public space II.


Week 10
Social welfare programs in Brazil

Week 11
Case Study: Health System in Brazil: Sistema Único de Saúde (SUS)

Week 12
Technical visit

Week 13
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Week 14
Perspectives and challenges

Note: This course outline describes 14 weeks of class sessions. The course comprises 15 weeks, one of which takes place during the Traveling Seminar in Bahia.

Readings

- DaMatta, Roberto. Carnivals, rogues, and heroes. An Interpretation of the Brazilian, 2014.