

Syllabus of Record

Program: Social Justice and Inequality in São Paulo

Course Code / Title: (SP/SOCI 350) Re-thinking Racial Democracy in Brazil

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Sociology / History, Political Science

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites / Requirements: None

Description

This course provides a rigorous treatment of the dynamics of Brazilian racial relations by exploring the notion of 'racial democracy.' Through informed debate about the widespread image of Brazil as a racially harmonious society, students are exposed to the leading racial relations and racism theories that have been produced in the social sciences and through social movements.

In particular, this course provides insight into the structure that underlines the myth of 'racial democracy,' as well as its consequences for Brazil's current racial scenario. Classroom lectures and discussions are supplemented by field-based course components to relevant sites in and around São Paulo.

Objectives

Through this course, students:

- Gain deep knowledge about the nature of racial relations in Brazil
- Develop familiarity with the most important concepts and theories in this field of study
- Employ critical reasoning around the idea of 'racial democracy'
- Analyze the consequences of 'racial democracy' as an entrenched concept in Brazilian society

Course Requirements

Students are required to actively participate in class discussions and attend field-based visits to organizations and institutions that are related to race issues in Brazil. Discussions are based on assigned readings, tasks, and presentations. Attendance requirements are outlined in the CET Attendance Policy.

Weekly readings are assigned. It is imperative that each student complete the assigned reading in a timely fashion, as this enables them to actively participate in class.

Grade components of the course are as follows:

- Participation: This criterion is based on students' *active* participation in all curricular activities. Special emphasis is placed on the contribution of each student to the discussion sessions, class debates, and field-based course component discussions.
- Student Seminar Presentation: Each student delivers a 15-minute presentation with a 10-minute Q&A session guided by the professor's comments.

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- Final Paper: This 10 to 15-page essay should reflect an empirical, in-depth investigation addressing the relationship between a race-related issue in Brazil and its relevance to any of the main topics discussed in class

Grading

The final grade is determined as follows:

- Participation: 30%
- Student Seminar Presentation: 25%
- Final paper: 45% (research proposal 10%, actual research 35%)

Readings

Andrews, George Reid. "Racial Inequality in Brazil and the United States: A Statistical Comparison." *Journal of Social History*, vol. 26, no. 2, 229–263, 1992. www.jstor.org/stable/3788420

Degler, Carl N. *Neither Black Nor White: Slavery and Race Relations in Brazil and the United States*. University of Wisconsin Press, 1986.

Fernandes, Florestan. *The Negro in Brazilian Society*. Columbia University Press, 1969.

Freyre, Gilberto. *The Masters and slaves*. University of California Press, 1986.

Nascimento, Abdias & Nascimento, Elisa Larkin. *Dance of Deception: A Reading of Race Relations in Brazil*. In: Hamilton, Charles et al. *Beyond Racism: Race and Inequality in Brazil, South Africa, and the United States*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2001.

Skidmore, Thomas E. *Black into White: Race and Nationality in Brazilian Thought*. Duke University Press, 1993.

Winant, Howard. "Race and Race Theory." *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol. 26, 169-185, 2000.

Additional Resources

Andrews, George Reid. "Black Political Protest in Sao Paulo, 1888-1988." *Journal of Latin American Studies*, vol. 24, no. 1, 147–171, 1992. www.jstor.org/stable/156675

Andrews, George Reid. "Brazilian Racial Democracy, 1900-90: An American Counterpoint." *Journal of Contemporary History*, vol. 31, no. 3, 483–507, 1996. www.jstor.org/stable/261017

Cox, Oliver C. *Caste, Class, and Race*. New York: Modern Reader, 1970.

Davila, Jerry. "Expanding Perspectives on Race in Brazil." *Latin American Research Review*, vol. 35, no. 3, 188–198, 2000. www.jstor.org/stable/2692047

Guimarães, Antônio Sérgio Alfredo. "The Misadventures of Nonracialism in Brazil." Hamilton, Charles et al. *Beyond Racism: Race and Inequality in Brazil, South Africa, and the United States*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2001.

Guimarães, Antônio Sérgio Alfredo. "After racial democracy." Translated by Renato Rezende. *Tempo soc.*, vol.3 Selected edition, 2007. http://socialsciences.scielo.org/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0103-20702007000100002&lng=en&nrm=iso

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- Guimarães, Antônio Sérgio Alfredo. "The Brazilian system of racial classification." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 35(7), 1157–1162, 2012.
- Guimarães, Antônio Sérgio Alfredo. *Colour and race in Brazil From whitening to the search for AfroDescent*. British Academy Scholarship Online: January 2013.
- Hanchard, Michael. *Orpheus and power: the movimento negro of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, Brazil, 1945-1988*. Princeton University Press, 1994.
- Hasenbalg, Carlos, and Suellen Huntington. "Brazilian racial democracy: Reality or myth?" *Humboldt Journal of Social Relations*, vol. 10, no. 1, 1982, 129–142, 1982. www.jstor.org/stable/23261860.
- Nascimento, Abdias do. "Sortilege (Black Mystery)." *Callaloo*, vol. 18, no. 4, 821–862, 1995. www.jstor.org/stable/3299035
- Nascimento, Abdias do. "Quilombismo: An Afro-Brazilian Political Alternative." *Journal of Black Studies*, vol. 11, no. 2, 141–178, 1980. www.jstor.org/stable/2784225
- Schwarcz, Lilia Moritz. "A Mestizo and Tropical Country: The Creation of the Official Image of Independent Brazil." *Revista Europea De Estudios Latinoamericanos y Del Caribe / European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, no. 80, 25–42, 2006. www.jstor.org/stable/25676210
- Silva, Graziella Moraes Dias, and Elisa Pereira Reis. "The multiple dimensions of racial mixture in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: from whitening to Brazilian negritude." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 35(3), 382–399, 2012.
- Solomos, John. "Theorizing Race and Racism". Back, Les, and John Solomos. *Theories of Race and Racism: A Reader*. London and New York: Routledge, 1-33, 2000.

Outline of Course Content

Module I - Conceptualizing Race and Racism

Basic definitions of racial issues and racism. How racial issues are constituted in the Brazilian reality.

Module II. Main issues in the way racism is reflected in Brazilian reality

How the concept of "racial democracy" is built as a key path to understanding the way Brazil understands itself as a country in its racial identity. Review and criticism on social thought and social studies by Brazilian intellectuals and Brazilianists.

Module III. Critique of the 'racial democracy' idea

Why is this actually a myth? Through the critical lens of black intellectuals and scholars, students identify and examine the limits of "racial democracy ideology" and how it has been the grounds for perpetuating racial historical unrest. Perspectives and challenges.