Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Brazil: Social Justice & Inequality in São Paulo
Course Code / Title: (SP/LAST 300) Social Justice and Inequality in 21st Century Brazil (ENG)
Total Hours: 45
Recommended Credits: 3
Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Political Science / Sociology, Urban Anthropology
Language of Instruction: English
Prerequisites / Requirements: None

Description
Brazil is one of the most powerful emerging economies of the 21st century, with, however, a still largely poor population and a high degree of social injustice and inequality that pervade its society. In this course, students are exposed to the leading theories of social justice and underdevelopment that have been produced in the social sciences, and engage in the analysis of 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, as well as class, gender, and race.

Objectives
In this course, students:

- Conceptualize and describe issues in the study of social justice and inequalities.
- Identify domestic and foreign sources of social inequalities and underdevelopment both in Brazil and Latin America more broadly.
- Gain knowledge of key concepts in development studies, while adapting and interpreting them in the Brazilian context.
- Gain hands-on experience by visiting relevant sites and interacting with diverse social actors who strive to achieve social change through religious, political, and grassroots approaches.
- Examine the most salient postulates and interpretations in development studies literature and gather theoretical tools for critical reasoning on contemporary arguments and debates.
- Develop awareness of class-related issues and increase their degree of cultural sensitivity toward this matter.

Course Requirements
Thoughtful in-class and out-of-classroom participation is essential in this course. Students are expected to attend each class and three field-based course components, as outlined in the CET Attendance Policy. Students are expected to read assigned materials before each class session and watch all assigned films or videos. Graded components of the course are as follows:
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- **Participation:**
  This criterion is based on students' active participation, not only in class sessions but also in field-based course components and other curricular activities. Special emphasis is placed on the contribution of each student to the discussion sessions, class debates, and field activities discussions.

- **Student seminar presentation:**
  Each student delivers a 10-minute presentation with a 25-minute Q&A session guided by the professor’s comments. Each student is assigned one selected reading and should read it carefully and use to select relevant parts to be used as ground for their oral presentations.

- **3 Reaction Papers:**
  Based on class material and personal observations during each field-based activity, each student writes three 5-page papers in which they reflect on some aspect of Brazil’s socio-economic reality. Topics discussed in class should be referred to in the Reaction Papers.

- **Final Paper:**
  This 15-page essay should reflect an empirical, in-depth investigation addressing the relationship between a current development issue in the Brazilian scenario and its relevance to any of the main topics discussed in class.

**Grading**
The final grade is determined as follows:
- Participation: 20%
- Student seminar presentation: 20%
- 3 Reaction Papers: 20%
- Final Paper: 40% (research proposal 10%, actual research 30%)

**Readings (required)**


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Rolinik, Raquel, and Danielle Klintowitz. “(Im)Mobility in the City of São Paulo.” *Estudos Avançados* 25(71), 89-108, 2011.


Additional Resources

Additional articles, films, videos or websites may be assigned during the course. The following supplementary readings are suggested:


Outline of Course Content

The professor usually covers one topic per week.
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Topic 1: Brazil and Latin America in comparative perspective: how developed is developed? Democracy and inequality

Topic 2: Race, gender and sexuality in the colonial struggle

Topic 3: Violence and inequalities

Topic 4: Field Experience #1: Social justice and education in Brazil (Vocação NGO)

Topic 5: Social justice, recognition, redistribution and participation

Topic 6: Field Experience #2: Inequalities and urban segregation | Visit São Paulo downtown squatted property

Topic 7: Bodies in alliance, precarious life and politics of the street

Topic 8: Debate: Ethics and methodological approaches: the city, “favela chic,” “commodification of poverty” and “slum tourism”

Topic 9: Social Identities: Poverty, inequality and citizenship in Brazil

Topic 10: Social Identities: Gender, class and race in Brazil

Topic 11: Social justice and indigenous identity & Constitutional rights of indigenous peoples

Topic 12: Witchcraft, territories and marginal resistances in Rio de Janeiro

Topic 13: Pacification apparatus, religion and boundary formation in urban peripheries

Topic 14: Conservative religious activism in the Brazilian Congress: Sexual agendas in focus.