Brazil Travel Seminar: 
Religions, Cultures, and Liberation in Brazil  
Summer 2010  
Rio de Janeiro and Salvador in Bahia, June 29-July 14

Instructors:  
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Course Description:
This course offers students an opportunity to explore themes in the cultural and religious history and the contemporary theologies and diverse religious life of Brazil through readings and travel to Rio de Janeiro and Salvador in Bahia. We will visit Roman Catholic, mainline Protestant, and Pentecostal churches as well as Afro-Brazilian religious sites; spend time with Brazilian people, gaining insights into elements of culture and the rhythms of daily life; visit seminaries and confer with native theologians, biblical scholars, and seminarians. Themes to be explored include negotiations of difference within Brazil today; the complications of engagements with race, class, and gender; and contemporary theological responses to the challenge of embodying authentic Christian faith in postcolonial contexts.

Goals and Objectives:
The goal of the course is to expand students’ experience of the global Christian witness through close, local engagement with Brazilian persons and social realities and build their capacity for theological and ethical reflection on a culture other than their own.

Students will
• through reading of primary and secondary sources, listening to and viewing audio and visual media, attending lectures and guided tours/discussions, and participation in group discussion, develop an appreciation and basic understanding of key issues in Brazil’s political, cultural, and religious history;
• through reading, listening, discussion, and in writing, sharpen their skills of theological-cultural interpretation;
• through oral contributions to discussion, in their contributions to an oral exam, and by writing a synthetic, interpretive essay, demonstrate a basic understanding of key themes in the contemporary theologies of Brazil and a developing capacity to engage these themes in their own theological and ethical reflection.

Required books:
• Leonardo Boff, Church: Charism and Power—Liberation Theology and the Institutional Church (New York: Crossroad, 1986).
• Ivone Gebara, Longing for Running Water (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1999).

Recommended books:
• Rubem A. Alves, Protestantism and Repression: A Brazilian Case Study (Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock, 2007).

Texts/Resources/On Library Reserve:
1. BOOKS AND ARTICLES


Andrade, Oswaldo de. “Cannibal Manifesto”/“Manifesto Antropófago.”
http://www.feastofhateandfear.com/archives/andrade.html or
http://www.perdirgiorno.net/manifesto/cannibalmanifesto1928.pdf


_____., and Gilberto Gil. “Cálnce” (song lyric and translation).


2. FILMS

*Carlota Joaquina - Princesa do Brazil* (Carla Camurati, 1995)
*Central Station/Central do Brasil* (Walter Salles, 1998)
*Chronically Unfeasible/ Cronicamente Inviável* (Sergio Bianchi, 2000)
*City of God/Cidade de Deus* (Fernando Meirelles, 2002)
*God is Brazilian/Deus é Brasileiro* (Carlos Diegues, 2003)
*Grupo Corpo* (Brazilian Dance Theatre, 2004)
*Ilé Aiyé* (David Byrne, 1989)
*The Middle of the World/O Caminho das Nuvens* (Vicente Amorim, 2003)
*The Mission* (Roland Joffé, 1986)
*Moro no Brasil* (Mika Kaurismäki, 2002)

3. RADIO STATION

http://www.novabrasilfm.com.br

Requirements:

1. Preparation, through reading, listening, and viewing of assigned texts, and engaged, receptive, and thoughtful participation in all activities and encounters of the Seminar. (5%)

2. 6 one-page response papers: students will choose one of the texts assigned for each topic (see Topics and Assignments, below) and offer a brief theological response; to be completed and submitted to the instructors before June 29. (20%)
3. Final essay: a (10-12 page) essay exploring the theological and ethical dimensions of an aspect of Brazilian religious, social, political experience. (75%)

N.B. In order to pass the course, students must participate fully in all Seminar activities and complete and submit all assigned work.

Academic honesty:
All work turned in to the instructors is expected to be the work of the student whose name appears on the assignment. Any borrowing of the ideas or the words of others must be acknowledged by quotation marks (where appropriate) and by citation of author and source. Students unfamiliar with issues relating to academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center and should make use of the available resources at an early date, since violations of seminary policy on academic honesty can lead to a failing grade for the course.

Accessibility and Accommodation:
Students requiring accommodation for a physical or learning disability should be in contact with the Director of the Academic Support Center (ASC; kmapes@lpts.edu) within the first few days of the course and should speak with the instructors as soon as possible to arrange appropriate adjustments. Students with environmental or other sensitivities that may affect their learning are also encouraged to speak with the instructor.

Inclusive Language:
The use of inclusive language in course work is a policy of Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. Direct quotations from theological texts and translations of the Bible do not have to be altered to conform to this policy. In your own writing, however, avoid language for people that leaves out part of the population or perpetuates stereotypes. Do not assume masculine gender when the gender of the person is unknown. When referring to God, you are encouraged to use a variety of images and metaphors. See http://www.lpts.edu/Academic_Resources/ASC/avoidinggenderbiasinlanguage.asp.

A note on reading assignments:
All required readings are to be read before the student departs for Brazil. Readings listed as recommended are supplied for those who would like deeper background on the topic.

Topics and Assignments:

**Topic 1**  
*Tupi or Not Tupi – A formação do corpo/alma Brazileiras*  
Required:  
- Brazil Reader, 16-64, 125-146, 231-247  
- Film: The Mission  
Recommended background:  
- Boris Fausto, *A Concise History of Brazil*, ch. 1-5, esp. 54-59, 253-279  
- Mário de Andrade, *Macunaima*  
- Edward J. Sullivan, ed., *Brazil: Body & Soul*

**Topic 2**  
*Teologias da libertação*  
Required:  
- Brazil Reader, 264-267, 319-322, 327-333, 420-422  
- Leonardo Boff, *Church: Charism and Power* (entire)  
Recommended background:  
- Leonardo Boff, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*
**Topic 3**  
*Religiões negras e indígenas*

**Required:**
- Leni Silverstein, “The Celebration of Our Lord of the Good End,” in *The Brazilian Puzzle*
- *Brazil Reader*, 91-99, 354-396, 408-410, 436-440
- Videos: search and view (http://www.youtube.com) “festa do nosso senhor do bonfim”
- Rachel E. Harding, *A Refuge in Thunder*: ch. 2, 8, Coda

**Recommended background:**
- Rachel E. Harding, *A Refuge in Thunder* (entire)
  http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/LASA97/Prandi.pdf
- Film: *Ilé Aiyé*
- Euclides da Cunha, *Rebellion in the Backlands*

**Topic 4**  
*Mulheres fazem teologia*

**Required:**
- Ivone Gebara, *Longing for Running Water*, ch. 1, 3-4
- Nancy Cardoso Pereira, “Of the Interruption of the Clocks: For an Anthropophagic, Polemist and Militant Theology”
- *Brazil Reader*, 302-353

**Recommended background:**
- Boris Fausto, *A Concise History of Brazil*, ch. 6

**Topic 5**  
*Protestantismo e Línguas de fogo—Neo-Pentecostalismo*

**Required:**
- Rubem Alves, *Protestantism and Repression*

**Recommended background:**
- Benjamin F. Gutiérrez and Dennis A. Smith, ed. *In the Power of the Spirit*, esp. chapters by Silveira Lima and Freston

**Topic 6**  
*Tupi or Not Tupi—Eis a questão*

**Required:**
- *Brazil Reader*, 454-461, 483-504
- Chico Buarque de Hollanda and Gilberto Gil, “Cálice”
- Angus Wright and Wendy Wolford, *To Inherit the Earth: The Landless Movement and the Struggle for a New Brazil* 263-339

**Recommended background:**
- Chico Buarque, *Benjamin*
- Boris Fausto, *A Concise History of Brazil*, ch. 6
- Film: *Moro no Brasil*
Tentative itinerary:

June 29 – Leave Louisville
June 30 – Arrival in Rio de Janeiro
July 1-6 – Rio de Janeiro
  Visit:
  Roman Catholic Cathedral
  First Presbyterian Church
  Church of the Kingdom of God
  Leonardo Boff
  Bennet School of Theology
  Nancy Pereira Cardoso
  Social Organizations
  Sightseeing
July 7-12 – Salvador, Bahia
  Visit:
  Iteba – Institute for Theological Education of Bahia
  Pelourinho
  Church of the Black – Roman Catholic
  Afro Brazilian religious communities
  Historical places
  Sightseeing
July 12-14 – Rio de Janeiro
  Sightseeing