

Readings in Religions, Cultures, and Liberation in Brazil

Spring 2010

Selected Thursdays 8:00-10:00 pm (see calendar below for dates)

Gardencourt 206

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Course Description:

This course is designed to prepare students for successful participation in the Brazil Travel Seminar, but it is open to others interested in exploring key themes in the cultural and religious history and the contemporary theologies of Brazil. The readings for the course focus on the diversity of historic and contemporary religious life in Brazil; the complications of Brazilian 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 orient students to the Brazilian cultural, intellectual, and religious landscape and prepare them for an engagement with Brazilian theologies of liberation and Afro-Brazilian/indigenous religions.

Students will

- through reading of primary and secondary sources, listening to and viewing audio and visual media, and participation in class discussion, develop an appreciation and basic understanding of key issues in Brazil's political, cultural, and religious history;
- through reading, discussion, and in writing, sharpen their skills of theological-cultural interpretation;
- through oral contributions to discussion and in their contributions to an oral exam, 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:

- Robert M. Levine and John Crocitti, *The Brazil Reader: History, Culture, Politics* (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press), 1999.
- 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).
- Rachel E. Harding, *A Refuge in Thunder: Candomblé and Alternative Spaces of Blackness* (Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2003).

Texts/Resources/On Library Reserve:

1. BOOKS AND ARTICLES

Alves, Rubem A. *A Theology of Human Hope*. Corpus, 1969.

_____. *Protestantism and Repression: A Brazilian Case Study*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock, 2007.

_____. *I Believe in the Resurrection of the Body*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock, 2003.

Andrade, Mário de. *Macunaíma*. New York, Random House, 1984.

- Andrade, Oswald de. "Cannibal Manifesto"/"Manifesto Antropófago." <http://www.feastofhateandfear.com/archives/andrade.html> or <http://www.perdigiorno.net/manifesto/cannibalmanifesto1928.pdf>
- Boff, Leonardo. *Church: Charism and Power—Liberation Theology and the Institutional Church*. New York: Crossroad, 1986.
- _____. *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1997.
- Buarque, Chico. *Benjamin*. Trans. Clifford E. Landers. London: Bloomsbury, 1998.
- _____, and Gilberto Gil. "Cálice" (song lyric and translation).
- Cardoso Pereira, Nancy. "The Body as Hermeneutical Category: Guidelines for a Feminist Hermeneutics of Liberation." *The Ecumenical Review*, July, 2002.
- _____. "Empire and religion: Gospel, Ecumenism and Prophecy for the 21st century." Unpublished paper.
- _____. "Of the Interruption of the Clocks: For an Anthropophagic, Polemist and Militant theology." Unpublished paper.
- Cox, Harvey. *The Silencing of Leonardo Boff: The Vatican and the Future of World Christianity*. Meyer Stone, 1988.
- Cunha, Euclides da. *Rebellion in the Backlands*. Chicago: University of Chicago, 1957.
- Fausto, Boris. *A Concise History of Brazil*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.
- Gebara, Ivone. *Longing for Running Water*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1999.
- Harding, Rachel E. *A Refuge in Thunder: Candomblé and Alternative Spaces of Blackness*. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2003.
- Prandi, Reginaldo. "The Expansion of Black Religion in White Society: Brazilian Popular Music and Legitimacy of Candomblé." <http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/LASA97/Prandi.pdf>
- Silverstein, Leni. "The Celebration of Our Lord of the Good End: Changing State, Church, and Afro-Brazilian Relations in Bahia." David J. Hess and Robert A. DaMatta, ed. *The Brazilian Puzzle: Culture on the Borderlands of the Western World*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1995.
- Silveira Campos, Leonildo. "Why Historic Churches Are Declining and Pentecostal Churches Are Growing in Brazil." Benjamin F. Gutiérrez and Dennis A. Smith, ed. *In the Power of the Spirit: The Pentecostal Challenge to the Historic Churches in Latin America*. Louisville: Presbyterian Church USA, 1996. <http://www.religion-online.org/showchapter.asp?title=374&C=1358>
- Sullivan, Edward J., ed. *Brazil: Body & Soul*. New York: Guggenheim Museum, 2003.
- Wright, Angus and Wendy Wolford. *To Inherit the Earth: The Landless Movement and the Struggle for a New Brazil*. Oakland: Food First, 2003.

2. FILMS

- Carlota Joaquina - Princesa do Brazil* (Carla Camurati, 1995)
- Carnaval 2006 - Compacto Desfile Escolas De Samba* (2006)
- 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)
- Île 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 for class and active, thoughtful participation in discussion. (5%)
2. 6 one-page response papers: students will choose one of the texts assigned for each class meeting and offer a brief theological response. (40%)
3. Final examination: an oral examination will be scheduled toward the end of the semester. Students will consult with the instructors to determine the specific focus of this conversation/examination. (55%)

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:

The calendar of assignments lists readings/texts in three categories: required, recommended level one, and recommended level two. The required readings are to be read before the class meeting for which they are assigned. Students who are participating in the Brazil Travel Seminar will be required to complete all recommended level one readings before departing for Brazil. Readings listed as recommended level two are supplied for those who would like deeper background on the topic.

Calendar of Topics and Assignments:**Feb 18** *Tupi or Not Tupi – A formação do corpo/alma Brasileiras*

Required:

- *Brazil Reader*, 125-146, 231-247
- Film: *The Mission*

Recommended level one:

- *Brazil Reader*, 16-64

Recommended level two:

- Boris Fausto, *A Concise History of Brazil*, ch. 1-5, esp. 54-59, 253-279
- Mário de Andrade, *Macunaíma*
- Edward J. Sullivan, ed., *Brazil: Body & Soul*

March 4 *Teologias da libertação*

Required:

- *Brazil Reader*, 264-267, 319-322, 327-333, 420-422
- Leonardo Boff, *Church: Charism and Power*, ch 1, 13

Recommended level one:

- Leonardo Boff, *Church: Charism and Power* (entire)

Recommended level two:

- Leonardo Boff, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*

March 18 *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”

Recommended level one:

- Rachel E. Harding, *A Refuge in Thunder*: ch. 2, 8, Coda

Recommended level two:

- Rachel E. Harding, *A Refuge in Thunder* (entire)
- Reginaldo Prandi, “The Expansion of Black Religion in White Society: Brazilian Popular Music and Legitimacy of Candomblé”
<http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/LASA97/Prandi.pdf>
- Film: *Îlé Aiyé*
- Euclides da Cunha, *Rebellion in the Backlands*

April 8 *Mulheres fazem teologia*

Required:

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

Recommended level one:

- *Brazil Reader*, 302-353
- Ivone Gebara, *Longing for Running Water*, ch. 3-4

Recommended level two:

- Ivone Gebara, *Longing for Running Water* (entire)
- Boris Fausto, *A Concise History of Brazil*, ch. 6

April 22 *Protestantismo e Línguas de fogo—Neo-Pentecostalismo*

Required:

- Leonildo Silveira Campos, “Why Historic Churches Are Declining and Pentecostal Churches Are Growing in Brazil,” <http://www.religion-online.org/showchapter.asp?title=374&C=1358>

Recommended level one:

- Rubem Alves, *Protestantism and Repression*

Recommended level two:

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

May 13 *Tupi or Not Tupi—Eis a questão*

Required:

- *Brazil Reader*, 454-461, 483-504
- Oswald de Andrade, “Cannibal Manifesto”/“Manifesto Antropófago,”
<http://www.feastofhateandfear.com/archives/andrade.html> or
<http://www.perdigiorno.net/manifesto/cannibalmanifesto1928.pdf>
- Chico Buarque de Hollanda and Gilberto Gil, “Cálice”

Recommended level one:

- Angus Wright and Wendy Wolford, *To Inherit the Earth: The Landless Movement and the Struggle for a New Brazil* 263-339

Recommended level two:

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