

/Utah State University  
PORT 3570 – Brazilian Culture and Civilization  
Fall 2017

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**Instructor: Dr. Rêgo**

**Office: 211 Old Main**

**Office Hours: TR (12:30-1:30pm) and by appointment only**

**Phone: 797-7102**

**Email address: [cacilda.rego@usu.edu](mailto:cacilda.rego@usu.edu)**

**Class Meetings: TR 10:30am-11:45am at Old Main 006**

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**Required Books/Texts:**

**Brasil 500 Anos**, Tânia Vieira Patara (excerpts supplied by instructor)

The course will include short readings (handouts) and a series of short videos and films.

**Suggested Books/Texts:** Students may find useful to have a book of verbs and a good dictionary with them all times.

**Course Description and Objectives:** This course introduces students to Brazilian cultural and political history from the 1500s to present day. Students will have the opportunity to gaze into the country's past, present and future through the lens of Brazilian intellectuals such as Darci Ribeiro and others. This course will ultimately enable students to become more comfortable and confident with their reading and writing skills in Portuguese and develop their own critical thinking skills through class discussion. **More specifically, these are the goals of this course:**

1. **Gain factual knowledge of Brazilian cultural history** (lectures & quizzes);
2. **Gain a broader understanding and appreciation of Brazilian intellectual-cultural production** (music, literature, film, etc.);
3. **Develop skills in expressing oneself orally and in writing in the target language (Portuguese)** (class discussions, oral presentations, & writing assignments such as reflections on course materials);
4. **Learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of views** (research paper);
5. **Acquire skills in working with others** (oral presentations in group)

**All course activities will be geared toward these five objectives.**

#### **Important Guidelines, Policies and Reminders:**

1. Less than a C on any assignment requires immediate attention. The student must see the instructor to detect and clarify problem areas and discuss ways to improve your work/grade.
2. **Students with disability:** The Americans with Disabilities Act states: "Reasonable accommodation will be provided for all persons with disabilities in order to ensure equal participation within the program. If a student has a disability that will likely require some accommodation by the instructor, the student must contact the instructor and document the disability through the Disability Resource Center, preferably during the first week of the course. Any request for special consideration relating to attendance, pedagogy, taking of examinations, etc., must be discussed with and approved by the instructor." All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Room 101 of the University Inn, 797-2444 voice, 797-0740 TTY, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966. Please contact the DRC as early in the semester as possible. See: <http://www.usu.edu/policies/pdf/Accmdtns-for-Disabled.pdf>
3. **Sexual Harassment:** Sexual harassment is defined by the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as any "unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature." If you feel you are a victim of sexual harassment, you may talk to or file a complaint with the Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Office, located in Old Main, Room 161, or call the office at 797-1266.

4. **Academic Integrity:** As per USU policy on Academic Integrity “Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. The Honor System is designed to establish the higher level of conduct expected and required of all Utah State University student.” Students who violate university rules on academic integrity are subject to disciplinary penalties. Academic dishonesty/misconduct shall include, but not be limited to, disruption of classes, threatening the instructor or a fellow student in an academic setting, giving or receiving of unauthorized aid on examinations or in the preparation of reports, notebooks or other assignments, knowingly misrepresenting the source of any academic work and/or plagiarizing of another’s work, or otherwise acting dishonestly for the purpose of obtaining/changing grades.

### **University Standard: Academic Integrity**

Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the University by not participating in or facilitating others’ participation in any act of academic dishonesty and by reporting all violations or suspected violations of the Academic Integrity Standard to their instructors.

**The Honor Pledge**—To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge: “I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity.”

Violations of the Academic Integrity Standard (academic violations) include, but are not limited to:

1. **Cheating:** (1) using or attempting to use or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or in any other academic exercise or activity, including working in a group when the instructor has designated that the quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity be done “individually”; (2) depending on the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (3) substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work; (4) acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission; (5) continuing to write after time has been called on a quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity; (6) submitting substantially the same work for credit in more than one class, except with prior approval of the instructor; or (7) engaging in any form of research fraud.
2. **Falsification:** altering or fabricating any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.
3. **Plagiarism:** representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one’s own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes using materials

prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials.

Further details information on academic honesty policies and consequences for violations of University Standard can be found at <http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=547>

**Note on Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a very serious matter and, in some forms, is a violation of the law. Students have been expelled from the university for engaging in acts of plagiarism. **The policy in response to an initial act of plagiarism by a student is to give the student an "F" grade for the plagiarized assignment and to insert a note in the student's University and Departmental files indicating the nature of the plagiarism act. A second act of plagiarism in the same course will result in an "automatic" receipt of a grade of "F" for the course.**

### **Attendance and Participation Policy:**

**Participation:** *Effort and engagement in classroom activities is what counts towards a good participation grade.* Students are expected to do the assigned readings before class in order to participate fully in class discussion. I expect students to be fully contributing members of the class by being prepared and actively participate in class discussion. Students who regularly contribute to class discussion and keep up on reading assignments will receive a good participation score. Pop quizzes may be given at the beginning of any class period at the instructor's discretion in order to ensure that students are keeping up on reading. Please speak with your instructor outside of class if you have any concern related to class performance or about ways to accomplish your goals in the course. As a courtesy to all, students shall not use the time in classroom to read outside materials nor use cellular phones, iPhones, iPods, personal computers and/or other devices. Phones should be "off" during class periods. If you have a situation requiring an adjustment to this policy, please discuss this with the instructor. Background noise(s) due to loud conversation(s) between and among students is not appreciated by the instructor (nor by other students) and may affect students' participation grade.

**Attendance:** *Class sessions will start on time, and students are expected to participate during the entire class period. Early departure, as well as anticipated absences, will only be excused in cases of extenuating circumstances.*

1. More than two unexcused absences by the student will result thereafter in one point (1) reduction per absence (up to 5) for attendance grade. Any student who misses 6 classes beyond the 2 absences allowed during the semester will automatically receive an "F" grade for the course. An exception to the attendance policy is students who travel with the university (i.e. athletes).
2. Tardiness is neither appreciated nor welcomed and will be

treated as an absence unless satisfactory explanation is made at the end of the class period, not at a later date or not at all. Absences are excused for illness, requirement to work, for bereavement (death of an immediate family member, i.e., parent, spouse, child, grandparent). A physician's excuse must be presented in the case of illness; an employer excuse must be presented for requirement to work; an obituary must be presented for bereavement. Students who travel for the university (i.e. athletes) need to present official university letter to be excused. If you must leave the classroom for any reason (bathroom, water), please do so in a suitable manner. There is no need to ask permission, but keep exits to a minimum. If the student plans to miss any class period s/he must contact the instructor beforehand, and must turn in any homework before the due date since after that no late work will be accepted.

5. If the student plans to miss any class period s/he must contact the instructor beforehand, and must turn in any homework before the due date since after that no late work will be accepted.
4. Excused absences will not affect the attendance and participation grade. Should illness or emergency prevent attendance, please notify the instructor promptly by phone or e-mail. If the student misses any class, it is his/her responsibility to collect handouts, assignment sheets, and other information made available during class time.
5. To leave earlier after signing the attendance list will be seen as a violation of the University's Honor Code. If the student needs to leave due to an emergency, please make the instructor know it before class meeting.
6. Missed class activities and assignments may only be made up in extremely extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the instructor. Late assignments are only accepted under unusual circumstances.
7. If the student must miss an exam and/or quiz for a valid reason (please note: a family vacation, a friend's wedding, his/her honeymoon, etc. are NOT valid reasons), the instructor may allow the student to take the exam early if there is advance notice. If you miss any exam without letting the instructor know in advance that you will miss an exam, you must notify the instructor as soon as possible. The instructor will ask you to prove your emergency. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in a zero for the missed exam and/or quiz.

Much of your learning will occur as a result of your attendance and participation, and your grade is depended upon it as well. Class participation includes actively contributing to discussions (asking appropriate questions and sharing comments with the class), doing the assigned homework (reading the course material critically, doing some research in the library, etc), participating in activities, and attending the lectures regularly and on-time. I

hold very high expectations for all students. Students are expected to look alert, take notes, and think about the ideas presented in class. Simply being in class is insufficient for learning, but being absent from class, either mentally or physically, will certainly prevent you from learning. Homework and/or in-class assignments will be part of the class format. Missed class activities and assignments may not be made up unless under unusual circumstances. It is the student's obligation to find out what missed if absent. Anyone missing the equivalent of three weeks or more of class will automatically fail the course.

### **Class Participation: Frequency and Quality**

- A= (20 points) Attends class regularly and always contributes to the discussion;
- B= (15 points) Attends class regularly and sometimes contributes to the discussion;
- C= (10 points) Attends class regularly but rarely contributes to the discussion;
- D= (5 points) Attends class regularly but never contributes to the discussion;
- F= (0 to 4 points) Does not attend class regularly and never participates and/or Does not attend class regularly and rarely contributes to the discussion.

**Class conduct:** I will treat you with respect and I expect you to extend the same respect toward me and your classmates. ***Absolutely NO discriminatory remarks about or behavior directed toward a person's race, creed, religion, national origin, age, sex or disability will be tolerated in the classroom.*** As indicated in the Student Code of Conduct "Faculty members of Utah State University have the responsibility and authority to determine, maintain, and enforce an atmosphere in their classrooms that is conducive to teaching and learning, in accordance with University policy and practice." See: <http://www.usu.edu/studentservices/studentcode/article5.cfm#secV3> Disciplinary action, including student removal from classroom, will be taken by instructor for disrespectful and/or disruptive classroom behavior by student(s).

**There will be no partial and final exams. Quizzes** will not be given on a make-up basis. For missed quizzes and assignments the instructor will record the student's grade as zero (0).

**NO LATE assignments will be accepted.** There will be no exceptions. See calendar for due dates.

**Short Research Paper.** There will one final paper for the course. This will be a short research paper (5 pages) on a topic chosen by the student. This assignment needs to be typed, double-spaced, and may be written in either English or Portuguese. Student is expected to provide sources in the endnotes and a bibliography. Contrary to a personal essay—in which the student presents his/her thoughts, feelings and opinions without referring to sources of information or ideas, the student need to go beyond personal knowledge and experience to write this final essay. According to the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, "No matter what your subject of study, learning to

investigate, review, and productively use information, ideas, and opinions of other researchers will play a major role in your development as a student. The sorts of activities that constitute a research paper—identifying, locating, assessing, and assimilating others’ research and then developing and expressing your own ideas clearly and persuasively—are at the center of the educational experience” (p. 3). If the student is not familiar with writing a research paper, please consult the MLA Style Handbook, the APA Style Handbook, the Chicago Style Handbook or any other writing style handbook in order to assure that the assignment is completed properly.

**Please Note: Students will be required to submit a proposal (with bibliography) of his/her final paper to the instructor for approval. Final papers will not be accepted/graded unless said proposal has been submitted by due date and approved by the instructor.** Essays should be original (student cannot submit the same work for credit in more than one class) and the topic must pertain to the course topic and/or materials covered in the semester, Essays must have a clear thesis statement and students must use the mechanics of writing (language and style) clearly and effectively. A working outline is recommended. Although Internet search tools and sites can be used as resources, the student **MUST** avoid online encyclopedias such as Wikipedia. Also, avoid relying solely on Internet sources for your final project. “Cut-and-paste” from the Internet or any source(s) is considered plagiarism, and student will be penalized for it. I’ll check ALL reference sources.

This final assignment should be typed (or computer printout) and stapled in the upper left hand corner (no plastic spines or covers). It must include name of course and professor, name of assignment, your name, and title on the first page. All other pages must be numbered.

***Handwritten and/or single-spaced assignments will NOT be accepted by the instructor. Please note that NO assignment will be accepted after the due date.***

Give yourself plenty of time to think through your choice of topic, consult materials and write your essay. If you encounter any problems do not hesitate to talk to your instructor, whether to clarify the assignment or to get help in choosing, developing or researching a topic or in preparing the essay. No matter what the emphasis of a particular assignment may be, the student should always be working to improve their writing skills in the Portuguese language. While the instructor will be working with students to make their writing clear, concise and error free, there will be a peer review before the assignment is turned in to the instructor for grade. The student must hand in his/her assignment on time with one or two copies of a complete rough draft. No student will be allowed to make up a peer review, so please be on time and participate. Final drafts will be graded on the basis of organization, content, grammar, vocabulary and communication effectiveness.

**Rubrics:** For assessment of student’s performance the instructor will, whenever appropriate, use rubrics. Why use rubrics? Rubrics provide timely feedback; prepare

students to use detailed feedback (as they allow the instructor to more accurately pinpoint strengths or and weaknesses); encourage critical thinking; facilitate communication with students; allow the instructor to use only one set of criteria for all students; help the instructor refine his/her teaching methods.

**Oral Presentations:** Students will have two mini oral group presentations during the semester and a final, individual presentation based on their research paper. All presentations are to be performed in Portuguese unless the student is taking the class to fulfill his/her minor in LAS. They will be graded on the basis of organization, pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, content and communication effectiveness. More information on those will be provided by the instructor in the first day of class.

If students use PP for his/her presentation(s), a copy of the slides must be given in advance to the instructor.

- a. Make sure to prepare your presentation ahead of time. Please do not prepare for it in class during another student's presentation.
- b. Class size may require short presentations (approx. 5 min. per student) and may take place over two or three class periods. Once the student signs up for a particular day s/he will be hold responsible for having the presentation ready that day. No late presentations will be assigned. Please plan your presentations carefully in order not to go over your allotted time.
- c. When using Power Point, make sure it is error-free and to the point (pictures and bullet points accepted, but not long texts; background should not obliterate information in slides)
- d. Presentation topics need to be approved by the instructor.
- e. Questions? If you have any, please see the instructor to clarify assignment(s)

**Quizzes:** There will be several short quizzes throughout the semester. Any missed quiz will be marked a zero for grade.

**Homework:** Students will be asked to write short reflections on the readings and/or videos assigned during the semester. The instructor will randomly choose these reflections for in-class discussion. These short reflections will be graded on the basis of originality, argument/evidence, structure, clarity, and mechanics. Unless specified otherwise, these assignments will be submitted in Canvas.

**On Recording Lectures and Publicly Sharing Course Materials:** Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him or her. You must request via email instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class, no later than one week prior to the date of the lecture you wish to record. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material, either online or in hard copy. Moreover, in this course, students and/or guests will have the same courtesy, which

means that permission for recording lectures from students and/or guests should be obtained as well.

Course material developed by the instructor is his/her sole intellectual property and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor-generated materials for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

**Cell Phones and Computers:** Any student who is observed using their phone will be *marked absent for that day*. This includes talking and text messaging. (To not be intellectually present and engaged in a class discussion is to be absent from class). I approve of the use of a computer in the class for note-taking or for classroom activities and projects. However, students observed to be using a computer for other reasons (browsing, e-mail, IM, Facebook, other classwork, etc.) will also be marked absent.

**Emails:** Please use a salutation and signature in all of your emails or else you may not receive a prompt response, if any at all. Although I check my email daily during the week, I am not always able to respond to emails immediately, especially during the weekends.

**Rubrics:** For assessment of student's performance the instructor will, whenever appropriate, use rubrics. Why use rubrics? Rubrics provide timely feedback; prepare students to use detailed feedback (as they allow the instructor to more accurately pinpoint strengths or/and weaknesses); encourage critical thinking; facilitate communication with students; allow the instructor to use only one set of criteria for all students; help the instructor refine his/her teaching methods.

**Film Reflection:** Students will be asked to write a 2-page reflection on a feature film and/or documentary dealing with a historical fact. While a list of films will be provided by the instructor, students are encouraged to choose a film out of the list.

**Course Evaluation:** You are expected to complete an online evaluation for the course, at your convenience, by clicking on an evaluation link sent to you by email.

**There will be no mid-term or final examination for the course.**

**Grading scale:** Grades will be assigned according to the scale shown below.

A (100-95%); A- (94.9-90%); B+ (89.9-86%); B (85.9-83%); B- (82.9-80%); C+ (79.9-76%); C (75.9-73%); C- (72.9-70%); D+ (69.9-66%); D (65.9-63%); D- (62.9-60%); F (59.9% or less).

Attendance (0-10 points) 10%

Participation	(0-20 points) 10%
Research Paper	
Preliminary bibliography	(0-5 points) 5%
Paper proposal	(0-5 points) 5%
Complete rough draft	(0-5 points) 5%
Peer Review	(0-5 points) 5%
Peer Reviewed draft	(0-5 points) 5%
Final draft	(0-10 points) 20%
Research Presentation	(0-10 points) 10%
Quizzes	(5 points each) 5%
Two mini oral presentation(s)	(5 points each) 10%
Assigned homework	(5 points each) 5%
Film Reflection	(5 points) 5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

***NOTE: Final grade will be based solely on the integer value in the scale as shown. The instructor cannot and will not “find” points for the student at the end of the semester simply because the student’s score is near the next grade level. Doing so it would be unfair and unethical to the other students in the class, many of whom will also be a point away from the next grade level. The instructor cannot and will not change a grade arbitrarily in order to meet a student’s graduation and/or scholarship requirements, since by doing so the instructor will be guilty of fraudulent reporting. The instructor will not round grades up or down at the end of the semester. No exceptions! Students must complete and hand in all assignments by due dates in order to guarantee a good grade and pass the course. No grade will be changed unless the instructor has made an error.***

**Student/Teacher Conferences:** Students are encouraged to meet one-on-one with the instructor throughout the semester to discuss questions, concerns, progress, etc. Please do not wait until the end of the semester to visit with the instructor; the sooner you meet with the instructor the better!

**By accepting this syllabus you have agreed to these guidelines and must adhere to them.**

After carefully reading this syllabus, please sign and return the bottom of page to your instructor

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I have read and understood the requirements and policies concerning PORT 3570 as stated in the syllabus.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Semester: Fall of 2017