Time after time, Brazil has been hailed the ‘land of the future’. Capturing the world’s attention for over five centuries of colonialism and modernization, Brazil has offered rich natural resources for extraction and diverse social and political realities for the imagination of travelers and the work of scientists, academics and artists alike. Drawing from history, anthropology, literature and the arts, this Global Seminar explores how Brazil’s becomings have been represented nationally and internationally and the ways in which its peoples have evolved within or escaped and recast the frames of this imagined country.

Working with multiple media, we will discuss the making of a ‘Brazilian culture’ via music, sports, modernist art and architecture as well as the engineering of ‘economic miracles’ and the articulation of insurgent forms of citizenship. Becoming Brazil will conclude with ethnographic reflections on how peoples are confronting today’s widespread precarity and how radical ideas of futurity are being articulated in the country’s peripheries.
The Seminar is a Brazil LAB (Luso-Afro-Brazilian Studies) initiative and will include a select group of Brazilian students. We will be based at the Instituto Moreira Salles (IMS) in Rio de Janeiro. Students will visit cultural and historical sites, and engage with local intellectuals, artists, and activists. During field trips to the megacity of São Paulo and to the colonial town of Paraty and the Atlantic Forest, students will be introduced to new forms of mobilization and environmental politics.

The Seminar will include classes of Portuguese at various levels and students will engage various research archival and fieldwork methodologies and produce critical and artistic projects. The success of the seminar depends on the students’ commitment to complete all required readings, to reflect critically on texts and audiovisual materials, to participate actively in discussions and field excursions, and to creatively bring these insights in the various assignments, which will culminate in the presentation of individual travelogues.

Grading will be based on:

- Seminar attendance and participation | 20%
- Portuguese language class | 20%
- Assignments | 40%
- Final portfolio presentation | 20%
Week 1 | Becoming Brazil: Histories and Imaginations of Colonialism & Slavery

June 16 | Welcoming dinner and introductions (6:00-8:00 pm) at Fazendola (Praça General Osório) | Discussion of logistics with Lorena Figueiredo and Raul Melo

June 17 | IMS tour; seminar overview and initial discussion
Readings:
Assignment: Reflection on a Brazilian image (IMS database)
Afternoon: Excursion to the Sugar Loaf

June 18
Reading:
Guest Speaker: Arminio Fraga (Economist and Princeton University Trustee)
After lunch: Introduction to Portuguese in Brazil

June 19
Readings:
Guest speaker: Lilia M. Schwarcz (USP/Princeton)
After lunch: Visit to Instituto Moreira Salles’ photographic archives.
June 20

Readings:


Guest speaker: Lilia M. Schwarcz (USP/Princeton)

Assignment: Work with IMS’s digital photographic archives.

After Lunch: Portuguese in Brazil

June 21

Readings:

- Please visit website: [https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1548](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1548)

Optional reading:


Guest speaker: Flora Thomson-DeVeaux

Afternoon field excursion to *Cais do Valongo* and *Instituto de Pesquisa e Memória Pretos Novos* (downtown Rio).

Weekend suggested visit: *Jardim Botânico*

Optional Classic Writings & Films:


- Film: *Quilombo* by Cacá Diegues (1984).
- Film: *Vazante* by Daniela Thomas (2017).
Week 2 | Re-peopling Brazilian History

June 24
Readings:


Film screening: *The Hyperwomen* by Carlos Fausto, Takumã Kuikuro, and Leonardo Sette (2012)

Guest speaker: Carlos Fausto (Museu Nacional, UFRJ).

After Lunch: Portuguese in Brazil

June 25
Readings:

- Aparecida Vilaça. “A Museum in Flames, as viewed by one of its Anthropologists.” Available at: [https://brazillab.princeton.edu/](https://brazillab.princeton.edu/).

Guest speaker: Aparecida Vilaça (Museu Nacional, UFRJ).

Afternoon: Field trip to the colonial/coastal town of Paraty (charted bus leaving from IMS).

June 26

Morning: Tour of Paraty.

Afternoon: Visit to a native Guarani community. Consultant: Anthropologist Rafael Fernandes Mendes.

Assignment: Visual field trip chronicle.

June 27

Morning: Boat tour to Paraty’s islands (8am-12pm).

Afternoon: Visit to *Fazenda Bananal* & dinner at *Livraria das Marés*
June 28

Reading:

- **Soundscapes:** Jongos recorded by Stanley Stein. Available at [http://www.laabst.net/laabst3/index.htm](http://www.laabst.net/laabst3/index.htm).


Morning: Visit to *Quilombo do Campinho* community.

Afternoon: Trip back to Rio de Janeiro.

Optional Classic Writings & Films

- Film: *Iracema, uma transa amazônica* by Jorge Bodansky and Orlando Senna (1976).
- Film: *Bye-bye Brazil* by Cacá Diegues (1980).
- Film: *Coffee with Cinnamon* by Glenda Nicácio and Ary Rosa (2018).
Week 3 | Immigrants and the Making of a Modern Brazil

July 1
Readings:


Student presentations of visual Paraty field trip chronicles I
After Lunch: Portuguese in Brazil

July 2
Readings:


Student presentations of visual Paraty field trip chronicles II
After Lunch: Portuguese in Brazil

July 3
Portuguese in Brazil

July 4
Reading:


Morning Field Trip to São Paulo (flight from Santos Dumont airport).
Afternoon: Visits to exhibitions at the Museu de Arte de São Paulo (MASP) and São Paulo’s Instituto Moreira Salles; walk through Avenida Paulista.
Evening: Dinner hosted by Lilia M. Schwarcz (USP/Princeton).
Assignment: Audiovisual field trip journal.
July 5

Reading:

Morning: Visit to Pinacoteca; lunch at a Korean-Brazilian restaurant.
Afternoon: Guided field visits to local communities with José Ricardo Ayres (USP).

July 6

Readings:

Optional reading:

Morning: Visit to SESC Pompeia with Guilherme Wisnik (USP)
Lunch at Restaurante do MAM-SP
Afternoon: Ibirapuera and Museu AfroBrasil with Lilia M. Schwarcz (USP/Princeton)

July 7

Morning: Bike tour through the city.
Afternoon: Flight back to Rio de Janeiro

Optional Classic Writings & Films:


• Film: *São Paulo, Sinfonia da Metrópole* by Adalberto Kemeny and Rudolf Rex Lustig (1929).

• Film: *O homem que virou suco* by João Batista de Andrade (1980).

• Film: *The Cambridge Squatter* by Eliane Caffé (2016).
Week 4 | Brazilian Culture & Persistent Inequalities

July 8
Film screening: *Santiago* by João Moreira Salles (2007).
Guest speaker: João Moreira Salles
After Lunch: Portuguese in Brazil

July 9
Student presentations of audiovisual São Paulo journals
After Lunch: Portuguese in Brazil

July 10
Readings:
Afternoon: Samba lesson

July 11
Readings:
Exercise: Catarina’s Dictionary
After Lunch: Portuguese in Brazil

July 12
Reading:
Assignment: Work with IMS’s literary archive | Clarice Lispector
**After Lunch:** Portuguese in Brazil

**July 14 (Sunday)**

**Afternoon:** Flamengo soccer game at the Maracanã stadium.

**Optional Classic Writings & Films:**

- Film: *Black Orpheus* by Marcel Camus (1959).
- Film: *Entranced Earth* by Glauber Rocha (1967).
- Film: *Hour of the Star* by Suzana Amaral (1985).
Week 5 | Insurgent Futures

July 15


After Lunch: Portuguese in Brazil

July 16


Guest Speaker: Alessandra Orofino

Afternoon: Guided visit to the *Corcovado*.

July 17

Assignment: Group field visits and interviews with various activist, political, and educational initiatives

Possible sites: Instituto Tecnologia e Sociedade (ITS-Rio), Universidade das Quebradas, Quilombo Sacopá/Nucec-Museu Nacional, Instituto Igarapé

July 18

Workshopping and field visit presentations/discussions

Discussant: Miguel Lago

After Lunch: Portuguese in Brazil

July 19

Morning: Guided visit to the *Museu do Amanhã* and to *Porto Maravilha* (leave from hotel at 9am)

Optional classic Writings & Films

• Film: *Madame Satã* by Karim Aïnouz (2002).
• Film: *Cidade de Deus* by Fernando Meirelles and Kátia Lund (2002)
• Film: *Tropa de Elite* by José Padilha (2007)
**Week 6 | Becoming Brazil**

**July 22**

**Film screening:** *Amazonia Inc.* by Estevão Ciavatta (2019)

**Guest speaker:** Estevão Ciavatta

**After Lunch:** Portuguese in Brazil

**July 23**


**Guest speaker:** Geovani Martins

**After Lunch:** Portuguese in Brazil

**July 24**

Preparation at IMS of final Becoming Brazil portfolio

**July 25**

Final presentation of students’ portfolios

**Discussants:** João Moreira Salles & Flora Thomson-DeVeaux

**July 26**

Farewell lunch

**Optional classic Writings & Films**

• Film: *Vidas Secas* by Nelson Pereira dos Santos (1963).
• Film: *Edifício Master* by Eduardo Coutinho (2002).
• Film: *Elena* by Petra Costa (2012).
• Film: *Kbela* by Yasmin Thayná (2015).
• Film: *The Second Mother* by Anna Muylaert (2015).
• Film: *Aquarius* by Kléber Mendonça Filho (2016).
• Film: *Campo Grande* by Sandra Kogut (2016).