

**This syllabus was approved by TnCIS and TBR for Summer 2009**

**Prerequisite: None. Course may be offered at 1000-2000 level for Community Colleges.**

**Social Science/Anthropology (2000 or 3000 level)  
Peoples and Cultures of Latin America**

*Instructor:* Dr. Richard Pace

*Catalog Description:* The diverse peoples and Cultures of Latin America. History, sociocultural systems, and contemporary issues and impacts resulting from globalization from an anthropological perspective. Special emphasis on Brazil. (3 Credit Hours)

*Purpose:* The goals of this course are to enhance the students' understanding and appreciation of Latin American culture, particularly Brazilian culture from a social science perspective. Using the concept of cultural relativity, the course will explore all facets of culture from a Brazilian perspective (insider view) as well as an American perspective (outsider view). The course will also focus on a variety of contemporary issues (rainforest preservation, ethnic identity and race, urbanization and poverty, social movements, spirit mediumship religions) affecting different segments of the population.

*Course Objectives:* Course objectives include the development of first-hand, field-based knowledge of Brazilian culture. The course is also designed for the students to build an understanding of the anthropological concept of culture and apply it to what is observed in Brazil, while also developing the ability to critically evaluate their own culture from this perspective.

*Content Outline:* The course covers the following topics:

1. Definition of the concept of culture (cultural relativity, ethnocentrism)
2. Overview of Brazilian cultural history (pre-historic to present)
3. Overview of cultural groups in Brazil
4. Cultural adaptation to the environment - case studies from the central plains, rainforest, coastal regions, and urban areas
5. Development and underdevelopment
6. Family and social organization
7. Political systems
8. Religious beliefs and organizations
9. Brazilian customs and folklore

*Texts:* There two books required for this course which you will need while in Brazil. In addition, you will receive several reading handouts while in Brazil.

*The Brazilian Puzzle* by David Hess and Roberto DaMatta.

*Brazil in Focus, A Guide to the People, Politics, and Culture* by Jan Rocha

*Instructional Activities:* Daily lectures will be followed by organized outings or individual assignments (cultural observations)

*Field Experiences:* An urban analysis of Fortaleza and Rio de Janeiro with discussions and explorations of urban poverty, social stratification, and pop culture (soccer to samba).

*Resources:* The course uses the local setting as the principal educational resource.

*Grading Procedures:* Grades will be determined by the following:

- 1) Two quizzes over the reading material and observations of the local setting – each worth 50 points.
- 2) Daily journal covering cultural observations worth 50 points.
- 3) A final covering all readings and observations due the last day of class in Brazil - worth 100 points.

There will be a total of 250 points.

General guidelines for determining grades are:

A	100 – 90	C+	79 – 77	D+	69 – 67	F	59 - 0
B+	89 – 87	C	76 – 73	D	66 - 63		
B	86 – 83	C-	72 – 70	D-	62 - 60		
B-	82 - 80						

*Attendance Policy:* Attendance is of utmost importance in study abroad courses. There are no unexcused absences permitted. Unexcused absences are grounds for removal from the program. Being in class on time is also very important. Frequent tardiness will be considered an absence and appropriate action will be taken. Absences due to illness must be reported immediately to the program director.

*Academic Dishonesty.* Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices: Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments. In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed as a result of academic misconduct, the instructor has the authority to assign either (1) an F or zero for the assignment or (2) an F for the course.

*Prerequisites:* **None**

**Instructional Hours: In class instruction = 36 hours**  
**Course related excursion 6 hours**  
**Total = 42 hours**

## **Addendum to Syllabus**

- I. The TnCIS Course Review Committee for Summer 2009 Programs requested that courses which use field trips as instructional time provide examples of possible trips in their syllabi. Exact outlines of field trips will be provided after program planning sessions take place in early fall.

The following statement about field trips was taken either from the faculty application form or from field trip plans provided by the faculty.

Students will use their host family experience and their observations in and around Fortaleza for this course. In addition excursions are planned to Canoa Quebrada, Jericoacoara, Corcorado, urban tour of Rio de Janeiro and Sugar Loaf.