

## COURSE AGENDA - LET 3308-1 – Brazilian Culture and Portuguese Language

Intermediate Portuguese

Class time: Mon – Sat, 11:30AM - 12:45PM

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This is an intermediate intensive Portuguese language and Brazilian culture course. This hands-on course will integrate real-world experience in Brazil into the classroom. Students will use the language to immerse themselves in, and get a deep understanding of, the Brazilian culture and the cultural elements that influence current socio-economic, political, and business aspects of contemporary Brazilian society.

### **Course Objectives**

- Advance the learner's abilities to function in the language in actual communicative situations
- Create meaningful discourse in Portuguese
- Learn the necessary strategies and skills to become independent language learners
- Obtain a deep understanding of Brazil, its culture and its people in the current world scenario

### **Course Approach:**

This course uses an information-based communicative task approach in which students exchange real-life information about themselves with their classmates and instructor. This is not a traditional grammar class that focuses on mechanical practice and discussions of grammar. Therefore, students need to study all grammar points and vocabulary **before** coming to class. The instructor may give brief explanations regarding the daily class material, but the majority of class time will be dedicated to putting the new information into practice. *It is imperative that you come prepared to class.* Otherwise, you will not be able to follow along with the activities.

### **Required Reading**

- Reader prepared by instructor – Available for purchase in Brazil
- Larousse Concise Dictionary: Portuguese-English/English-Portuguese
- Brazil, Country Travel Guide, Lonely Planet

### **Recommended Additional Reading**

- "Brazil - Culture Smart! The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture", Sandra Branco and Rob Williams, Kuperard; Reprinted edition edition (September 5, 2006).
- "The New Brazil", Professor Riordan Roett, Paul H Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University (Director of the Western Hemisphere Studies and Latin American Studies Programs). Brookings Institutional Press; 1st edition (August 2, 2010).
- "Brazil on the Rise, The Story of a Country Transformed", Larry Rohter. Palgrave Macmillan (February 28, 2012).

### **Grade Distribution**

Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	30%
Team project	20%
Assignments	10%
Participation	20%

### **Participation and Daily Preparation:**

The importance of class participation in any foreign language course cannot be stressed enough. Students need to come to class prepared, with homework completed, and ready to participate. Students are expected to participate actively in drills, discussions, paired or group work, and always make efforts to speak Portuguese in class. Class participation includes being prepared in class and completing in-class assignments.

All work assigned for study outside of class must be completed promptly. No late work will be accepted. Your instructor will be specific about deadlines. Make sure to check the syllabus for guidance and meet with your instructor throughout the term about any questions you may have. Remember that participating in class is important for your grade.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is part of your participation grade. It is mandatory and includes arriving on time each day. In order to help acquire a foreign language, you must attend and participate regularly to internalize the structures you have learned. If you miss classes, you will find yourself behind the other students and your learning experience will become harder and less enjoyable.

You will lose a point from your final participation grade for each unjustified absence. Additionally, every three times you arrive late will be counted as an absence.

If you miss a class, you are responsible for all work covered that day. Coursework missed because of an unexcused absence cannot be made up.

### Homework

On the first day of class you will receive the Class Activities document which lists all the homework that needs to be completed and the respective due dates. The exercises allow you to learn, practice, review and test yourself on the material you have learned and will learn in class. You are expected to complete the homework for each day before coming to class. For example: Homework listed for July 5 should be ready when you come to class on the 5<sup>th</sup>. This will allow you to fully participate during class and will directly impact your participation grade. You should bring up in class any questions that arise while you are doing your homework.

### Exams

There will be a midterm and a final exam. The test dates are specified on this syllabus. Each test will have both a written and a listening comprehension component. Because language learning is a cumulative process, grammar and vocabulary from previous classes are always considered "fair game." **Missed exams cannot be made up.**

### Academic Hours and Course Credits

Depending upon the session selected, this course will include either 48 or 64 academic hours, the equivalent of 3.0 or 4.0 credits. Students should expect to be in class in the morning and to have professional visits to leading Brazilian and international companies in the afternoons.

### Use of Electronic Devices in the Classroom

No text messaging or emailing will be tolerated during class. Cell phones must be turned off or on silent and kept in your backpack or pocket during class.

## Detailed Course Program

### 1ª Semana

Data	Tópicos
Terça, 2 de julho	Opening Ceremony
Quarta, 3 de julho	<b><i>E aí, tudo bem?</i></b> Greet people the Brazilian way. Practice expressions of courtesy for formal and informal situations during your trip. Lots of pronunciation practice to warm up and make sure you have a strong foundation.

Quinta, 4 de julho	<b><i>O que você vai pedir?</i></b> Go beyond the vocabulary of your favorite foods and learn more about the Brazilian cuisine and its heritage. Learn a Brazilian recipe. Talk about your favorite foods.
Sexta, 5 de julho	<b><i>Quanto custa?</i></b> Ready to go shopping or pay for that delicious dinner in Brazil? Review the numbers, the Brazilian currency, and shopping vocabulary through hands-on class activities.
Sábado, 6 de julho	Review and practice exercises.

### 2ª Semana

Data	Tópicos
Segunda, 8 de julho	<b><i>Quando eu era pequeno.</i></b> Talk about your past. Review of the past tenses: pretérito perfeito e pretérito imperfeito do indicativo.
Terça, 9 de julho	<b><i>Cariocas são bacanas.</i></b> Learn with songs: <i>Cariocas</i> , by Adriana Calcanhotto. What is it to be a Carioca? What is it to be Brazilian? The Brazilian regions and stereotypes. Learn lots of new vocabulary. Practice the verb Ser.
Quarta, 10 de julho	<b><i>Dicas de viagem.</i></b> Talk about traveling. Share travel tips. Make requests and give commands. Learn travel vocabulary and the Imperative.
Quinta, 11 de julho	<b><i>É divertido falar de trabalho.</i></b> We are going to talk about work and professions, but don't worry; it's going to be fun! You will learn a lot of useful vocabulary, practice the imperative, exercise your listening comprehension, and continue to develop your fluency.
Sexta, 12 de julho	<b><i>Espero que você venha.</i></b> Having a party? Get ready to give your guests the best house tour ever. Learn home & furniture vocabulary and describe your ideal home. Learn to express wishes, wants, and requests using the present subjunctive.
Sábado, 13 de julho	Review and practice exercises.

### 3ª Semana

Data	Tópicos
Segunda, 15 de julho	<b><i>O amor está no ar.</i></b> Learn with songs: Tomara by Vinicius de Moraes & Tomara by Ivan Lins. We will use these two songs to explore love, friendship, and emotions in the Brazilian culture. Present subjunctive continued.
Terça, 16 de julho	<b><i>Saúde.</i></b> We wish you the best health always. But what if you get sick when you are in Brazil? In this conversation class we will talk about health and learn the symptoms of common problems that we may face while traveling. Practice the imperative and present subjunctive.
Quarta, 17	<b><i>Festas populares e manifestações culturais.</i></b> Learn about Brazilian

de julho	pop culture and folklore. Further explore Brazilian regional differences.
Quinta, 18 de julho	No class today. Professional and cultural visit in the morning.
Sexta, 19 de julho	Review for test
Sábado, 20 de julho	Session A1 Final Session A3 Midterm Session A1 Graduation Dinner

#### 4ª Semana

Data	Tópicos
Segunda, 22 de julho	Learn with movies: <i>Caroneiros</i> . Brazil and Latin America: culture and relationship.
Terça, 23 de julho	Review
Quarta, 24 de julho	Session A2 Final Session A2 Graduation Dinner
Quinta, 25 de julho	Transfer to São Paulo
Sexta, 26 de julho	<b>Sampa.</b> Let's learn more about this fantastic city. Business, art, and life in São Paulo.
Sábado, 27 de julho	<b>O Brasil e o mundo: diferenças culturais.</b> Have you experienced cultural shock? What cultural differences have you observed? What differences are Brazilians dealing with now that Brazil has been receiving more and more foreign professionals? Let's talk about cultures!

#### 5ª Semana

Data	Tópicos
Segunda, 29 de julho	Review
Terça, 30 de julho	Final Exam Graduation Ceremony