Course Syllabus

Intensive Language Study:
Portuguese for Social and Development Studies
II

PORT 1500 (3 credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Brazil: Social Justice and Sustainable Development

Course Description
This 45-hour immersion Portuguese course is designed specifically to meet the needs of SIT students, and includes oral expression, comprehension, structure, and grammar. Materials are designed by university professors and are used to introduce, expand, and reinforce knowledge of linguistic structures at progressive levels of difficulty. The professors’ efforts are enhanced and reinforced through the utilization of audio and visual aids such as videos, tapes, information sharing among students, and a continual review of material being simultaneously taught in the Academic Seminar and in the research methods classes of the Field Study Seminar. In addition, teachers and students go on frequent outings during which they explore the community using a set of specific language tasks to foster interaction. The professors design their lesson plans to include relevant information about the economy and politics of Brazil and Latin America, myths, societal roles, religion, and literature. Finally, personal tutorials take place once a week. Students are divided into two language levels: beginning and intermediate. The course is held during the first six weeks of the students’ stay in Brazil.

The beginning intermediate course content includes further development and use of all verb tenses; emphasis on pronunciation; the use of prepositions; possessive pronouns and adjectives; relative pronouns; personal pronouns; comparative and superlative adjectives; adverbs; reading; and listening exercises.

Course Objectives
The objectives of this course are to:
- bring all students to a level of proficiency to permit full involvement in Brazilian culture, including acquisition of information from primary sources in Brazil, and ample understanding of lectures, films, meetings, and seminars given in the host language;
- develop and foster Portuguese language skills through intensive instruction and cultural immersion;

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• review relevant, contextualized language functions of Brazilian Portuguese, while taking advantage of students’ previous knowledge of Portuguese and/or Spanish.
• promote students’ vocabulary growth, with a special emphasis on the vocabulary and other specialized terms directly related to social issues and current literature, thus contributing to their independent learning and pursuit of information;
• expose students to a number of regional accents and non-standard varieties of Portuguese, in order to enhance their understanding of what their subjects say in the field-work phase of the program;
• provide students with opportunities to interact personally in a variety of communicative situations, where the participants range from educated speakers of Portuguese to those who have had no or very limited access to formal education. This will be performed by means of task-oriented field classes;
• provide students with opportunities to develop listening and speaking skills aiming at fostering independent and accurate work, with an appropriate level of mutual understanding.

Course Requirements
Students are required to complete approximately one hour of homework assignments daily. The bulk of these assignments consist of written and oral exercises from textbooks supplemented with short papers, interviews, and additional reading. Class attendance, participation, and preparedness are also required.

Course Texts


Language Seminar Outline
Introduction to the course
Greetings, gender, occupations, nationalities/ role-playing
Demonstratives, numbers / reading and writing
Verbs, calendar, time, contractions / dialogues and role-playing
Occupations, articles/ exercises
Possessives, question words/ role-playing
Present continuous, ser VS. Estar / reading
Age, possessives, ser VS estar/ reading dialogues
Family relations, telling time/ reading
Irregular and regular verbs, Presente Simples
Routines, predictions, resolutions/ writing, listening
Future tense, frequency words, invitations/ choice making/ role-playing
Past (irregular) / role-playing
Past (irregular), object pronouns
Body parts, describing, futuro do presente
Imperative, pretérito imperfeito
Pretérito imperfeito, past continuous/group work
Presente do subjuntivo, diminutivo,
Mais-que-perfeito, imperfeito do subjuntivo, futuro do pretérito/ readings.songs

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Student Evaluation and Grading Criteria
Written evaluations are administered periodically during the semester and during the midterm and final week of instruction. The grade, based on performance on written exams, also includes the following components:

- A final oral and written evaluation by the instructor, in which accuracy, appropriateness of response, degree of communication, and fluency are assessed.
- Evaluation of achievement and language proficiency by the homestay family.
- Consistency of effort to use the host language both inside and outside the classroom.

Grading Scales and Criteria
Grades are given both fairly and rigorously and in accordance with the system below. They will reflect a combination of absolute quality of performance, progress made, and the ability to take into account and assimilate the Academic Director’s and the teachers’ advice in assessing the work done. An “A” letter grade reflects exceptional work, perfect combination of academic competences and personal research and analysis. It shows great ability to integrate field-based investigation and personal reflection into a structured and well argued paper. A “B” letter grade reflects serious and methodical work as well as a substantial effort at analyzing and understanding cross-cultural issues. A “C” letter grade shows the work meets the requirements but needs more in-depth reflection and personal involvement. A “D” letter grade is insufficient and clearly reflects lack of work or serious deficiencies.

The grading scale for all classes is as follows:

- 94-100% A
- 90-93% A-
- 87-89% B+
- 84-86% B
- 80-83% B-
- 77-79% C+
- 74-76% C
- 70-73% C-
- 67-69% D+
- 64-66% D
- below 64 F

Please see the SIT Study Abroad student handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, academic warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment, and the academic appeals process.

Please note, the syllabus, course content, lecturers, and readings may modified by the Academic Director in order to better suit the needs of the course and its participants. Should any change of class topics or lecturers may be necessary, student will be promptly notified.

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