



Brazil

Social Justice and Sustainable Development

Credits 16

Program Base Fortaleza

Language Study Portuguese

Homestay Fortaleza, 7 weeks

Rural Visit/Homestay Landless Workers Movement (MST) community, 2–4 days

Educational Excursions Interior Ceará; north and northeast Brazil (could include Recife, Salvador, and/or São Luis)

Independent Study Project 4 weeks

Prerequisites One semester of Portuguese or two semesters of a college-level Romance language other than Portuguese.

Social Justice and Sustainable Development Seminar

LACB 3000 / 5 credits / 75 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in English and Portuguese, with required readings, examining the social, political, and economic forces shaping development patterns in northeastern Brazil. Lecturers are drawn from institutions such as the Instituto Brasil/Estados Unidos/Ceará (IBEU-CE), the State University of Bahia, and the Federal University of Ceará. Lectures and discussions for this course generally include the following topics:

History and Politics

Political history of northeastern Brazil; social actors and movements; structural roots of poverty; human rights legislation and implementation; national and international influences.

Geography and Economics

Economic history and current reality in the northeast; drought and environmental issues; land use and tenure; practical approaches to combating poverty; urbanization and the *favelas*; women's issues in relation to class, race, and land tenure; health and education of children; poverty and the plight of street children; Brazil's Landless Workers Movement (MST).

African Diaspora

Race as a social construct; the African Diaspora in northeastern Brazil; Afro-Brazilian religions and identity; *quilombo* communities and liberation movements; music, arts, and culture of the African Diaspora; Afro-Brazilian women's issues.

Educational Excursions

The program generally includes field trips within Ceará and north and northeast Brazil, e.g. Recife, Salvador, and/or São Luis.

Intensive Language Study: Portuguese

PORT 1005-4005 / 5 credits / 75 class hours

Emphasis on oral and comprehension skills through classroom and field instruction. Based on in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing, students are placed in beginning or intermediate classes. Special arrangements are available for advanced speakers of Portuguese.

Field Study Seminar

ANTH 3500 / 2 credits / 30 class hours

A course in the concepts of learning across cultures and from field experience. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Material includes cross-cultural adaptation and skills building; project selection and refinement; appropriate methodologies; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; developing contacts and finding resources; developing skills in observation and interviewing; gathering, organizing, and communicating data; maintaining a work journal.

Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours

Conducted in Fortaleza or in another approved location appropriate to the project in northeastern Brazil. Sample topic areas: agrarian reform in the state of Ceará and the northeast; urbanization and economic development; urban social movements; Afro-Brazilian religion and culture; migratory trends and demographic impact; changing role of women in Brazilian society; economic and social plight of *favela* dwellers; culture and racial identity in northeastern Brazil; nongovernmental organizations and community organizations; Afro-Brazilian music; issues of cultural identity; alternative healing practices; religion and culture; class issues in Ceará; social action among youth; rights of the elderly.

Homestay

Seven weeks in Fortaleza and a rural stay with an MST community. Other accommodations during the program include hostels, private homes, and/or small hotels.

The African Diaspora comes alive through a visit to a Terreiro de Candomblé and possible participation in a traditional Afro-Brazilian religious celebration. Photo by Jenny Huang.

