

Brazil

Social Justice and Sustainable Development

Explore the multifaceted dynamics shaping development patterns in northeastern Brazil.

Coursework

Social Justice and Sustainable Development Seminar

LACB 3000 / 5 credits / 75 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in English and Portuguese with required readings and relevant educational excursions. The course examines 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, the State University of Bahia, and the Federal University of Ceará.

Seminar topics typically include:

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

Through educational excursions within the state of Ceará, students learn about northeast Brazil's diverse urban and rural communities and compare regional responses to social injustice. Excursion sites typically include one other location in the northeast of Brazil, such as Recife, Salvador, or São Luis. Students also visit a rural MST agricultural settlement to learn about agrarian reform laws and the group's struggle for more democratic structures of land tenure.

Intensive Language Study: Portuguese

PORT 1000-4000 / 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 the state of Ceará. Sample topic areas: agrarian reform in the state of Ceará and the northeast; urbanization and economic development; urban social movements; aspects of Afro-Brazilian culture in the state of Ceará; migratory trends and demographic



Credits 16

Program Base Fortaleza

Language Study Portuguese

Homestay Fortaleza, 7 weeks

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

Other Accommodations Hostels, private homes, and/or small hotels

Independent Study Project 4 weeks

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

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; issues of cultural identity; alternative healing practices; religion and culture; class issues in Ceará; social action among youth; rights of the elderly.

“The SIT Brazil program in Fortaleza solidified my language skills and my love of Brazil. ... The marisqueiras, and others I met in Brazil, made me want to seek out, work with, and be someone who, no matter how incrementally, made the lives of other individuals better.”

BIANCA SANTOS, Rice University