

PRT 320

The following are recent sample topics covered in PRT 320.

Portuguese 320 – Advanced Portuguese **COURSE TITLE: Operation Car Wash**

This course will focus on the largest investigation on corruption in Brazilian history, the so-called Operation Car Wash (Operação Lava Jato). What started in 2014 as a routine investigation into drug-related money laundering activities, turned out to reveal a web of long-standing systemic corruption. The investigation implicated all of Brazil's major political parties. It was revealed that billions of dollars had been kicked back to officials of Petrobras (Brazil Oil) and to politicians by prominent Brazilian construction corporations in return for contracts with Petrobras. While the Operation Car Wash precipitated a mudslide of political corruption, the unconventional and sometimes improper methods used by the authorities in charge of the investigations put in question its own integrity. Operation Car Wash and its sub-operations caused major social unrest, economic instability, and a political crisis whose aftershocks will likely be felt decades from now.

The course will follow a timeline suggested by the fictional series *O mecanismo* to stimulate engagement. This series, along with texts that analyze the multiple aspects of this historical event, will serve as material for our weekly discussions, written assignments, and other projects. The course will also have a grammar review component.

PRT 320 – Advanced Portuguese

COURSE TITLE: O Morro e o Asfalto: a cultura das favelas nas cidades brasileiras **["The Hill and the Asphalt: the favela culture in Brazilian cities"]**

This course will explore the Brazilian "favela" as a socio-cultural space within the Brazilian metropolises. Our intent is to move beyond stereotypical representations of the favela that tend to depict it as a paradoxical entity: either the favela is seen as an integrated space of communal solidarity, or it is simply identified as the gangland of drugs and prostitution. Instead of building upon these stereotypes, the focus of our analysis will be placed in the favela community's complex relationship with mainstream Brazilian society and with itself. By studying multiple discourses and perspectives, we will briefly trace the historical origins and development of the favela phenomenon in the larger Brazilian urban centers. This historical perspective will be enhanced through the analysis of the symbolic production of on and about the favela. The cultural material covered in class will include a variety of genres and media, ranging from early twentieth century journalistic prose, testimonial accounts, images and pictorial art to more recent texts, films and TV series. The main objective of the course is to familiarize students with the favela's most typical cultural manifestations as well as to engage students in the discussion of the favela's most pressing issues. The course will also have a grammar review component.

PRT 320 – Advanced Portuguese
COURSE TITLE. Journey to Brazil

The course is called and is a three-credit course targeted at students who have completed 200-level courses and are working on their intermediate high to advanced low proficiency skills. This integrated skills language course will cover a range of personal and cultural situations a student will need to navigate in an immersive experience in Brazil, such as a study abroad program. The course starts with personal and practical matters, gradually moving into broader social and cultural spheres and contexts of communication. The course will also have a grammar review component.

PRT 320 – Advanced Portuguese
COURSE TITLE: “Life as It Is” – Short Stories by Nelson Rodrigues

The course aims to develop students’ knowledge of Brazilian literature with a focus on the short stories of Nelson Rodrigues. Students will also be introduced to the cinematic production based on Rodrigues’ work. One of the most controversial Brazilian writers of all time, Rodrigues is credited for being a pioneer in modern Brazilian playwriting. He was also a journalist who created a popular weekly short story series for newspapers, *A vida como ela é*. His short fiction deals with taboo themes in society. His work has frequently been adapted to cinema and TV. Besides reading and writing about Rodrigues’ literature, students will also have a grammar review. Students will improve their reading, writing, speaking, and listening abilities in Portuguese. The course will also have a grammar review component.

PRT 320- Advanced Portuguese
COURSE TITLE: 100 Years of Samba

This course will be based mostly on Brazilian samba, some documentary films, and on grammar review. The films and song lyrics will be used as texts to foster discussions, oral and written expression mainly. The issues conveyed in this cultural material will provide substance for practicing all four language skills. Additionally, this material will be also studied in a historical context, which will enhance students’ knowledge of Brazilian cultural legacy. The course will also have a grammar review component.

PRT 320- Advanced Portuguese

COURSE TITLE. Brazil in Contemporary Documentaries

This course will focus on recent Brazilian documentaries. This type of cultural production will supply the classes with material related to current social and cultural issues in Brazil. The cultural material covered in class will include several contemporary documentaries on topics such as:

Children's rights

Menino 23

Streetkids United II: The Girls from Rio: A World Cup for Urban Children

Escolas em luta

The Amazon: environment and indigenous people

Amazônia Eterna

A Gramática da Felicidade

Art and political activism

Carretera Cartonera

Cidade Cinza

We will also read current news on related topics, which will also furnish material in support of research for the written assignments. Other materials include instructor-produced texts and activities. The course will also have a grammar review component.