DRAFT: Economics 199 Syllabus
Understanding Economics & Business in Brazil
Spring 2018

Instructor: Professor Joseph A. Petry
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e-mail: jpetry@illinois.edu
Office hours: M 4:00 – 5:00
Discussion hours: T 6:00 – 8:00pm
Discussion Location: TBA

Course Website: Moodle: https://learn.illinois.edu/
Announcements and Q & A Forum: https://piazza.com/illinois/spring2018/econ199/home

Course Objective: This course and connected study abroad experience will provide students with a global understanding of economics. The course will provide a cultural, economic, historical, geographical, and general understanding of Brazil. Students will work in small groups and select a specific topic of interest to explore more in-depth related to economics and Brazil, with the assistance of the faculty and course organizer. Topics of interest may be: poverty, entrepreneurship, innovation, education, migration, and many other areas. Students will explore their topic through research prior to leaving and continue learning more while abroad through discussions with faculty, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and others in Brazil. When students return they will complete their project and present their findings to the class.

Learning Outcomes: Our Short-term Immersive Brazil Study Abroad course is designed to encourage students to augment their classroom learning, increase their skills and abilities, to challenge their attitudes and develop awareness.

As the eighth largest economy in the world, Brazil offers a unique and rich context for student growth. One of the fastest growing economies in the world over the last 100 years, the country is recovering from its worst-ever recession. After an historic peaceful transition to democracy in the 1980s, Brazil is now mired in a deep political corruption scandal. A global leader in numerous industries, corporations are being challenged by a deep recession and in some cases damaging political associations. These contrasts offer a unique context to progress on numerous learning outcomes.

- Academic Learning outcomes: Observing a foreign economy and business enterprises can deepen students understanding of the concepts learned in classes through the recognition of similarities and differences with their home economy. The relevance of institutions, political stability and social norms in the functioning of markets, and success of individual businesses and industries offers an opportunity to appreciate the importance of these institutions in their future personal and professional dealings.
- Ability/skill based Learning Outcomes: Self-confidence, flexibility, critical thinking skills and the ability to deal with ambiguity are important abilities that are challenged in international settings.
- Attitude/Awareness Learning Outcomes: Intercultural competencies, including the awareness of global issues and the ability to evaluate competing perspectives on global issues will be challenged. Awareness of ones own values and culture as well as a deepened awareness of the role of the U.S. in the world will be investigated.

Students ability to synthesize these outcomes and to communicate the importance of them to peers and prospective employers will be developed through a guided journal component before, during and after the country visit and a group based final project at the culmination of the course.
Required Readings:


The World Factbook on Brazil published by the Central Intelligence Agency of the US Government is a good place for basic facts and history about Brazil. You should read over the Introduction, Geography, People and Society, Government, Economy, Energy, Communications and Transportation sections at a minimum. https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/br.html

Additional short readings will be provided in the weeks prior to the trip.

Additional Readings:


https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-on-latin-america-2017/sessions/the-economic-outlook-for-latin-america#
TENTATIVE Class Meetings:

February 26\textsuperscript{th}       Trip Logistics and Course Overview
March 5\textsuperscript{th}       Brazil’s Economy and Political System (online?)
March 12\textsuperscript{th}       Survival Portuguese
March 16\textsuperscript{th} – 25\textsuperscript{th}   In Country Visit.
April 2\textsuperscript{nd}     Group Presentations
April 9\textsuperscript{th}       Group Presentations
April 16\textsuperscript{th}       Take-Aways & Life Lessons

Course Grade:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guided Journaling</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Presentations</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
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</tbody>
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Grading Scale: The scale used to assign letter grades in the course will be the standard 90/80/70/60 scale with +/- grades given at +/- 3\% around these cutoffs. Curves are at the discretion of the Professor. Once grades are assigned by the instructor at the end of the course, no exceptions will be made. We do not round grades.

Homework: The required readings will be the basis for your homework, which will be offered in moodle.

Guided Journaling: Being present through this experience is the best way to insure that you take full advantage of the experience and can help you integrate the things you learn in to your daily life. Journaling about your experiences is a great way to encourage this to happen. This will be done online throughout the course.

Project & Group Presentations: There is a semester long project that is an integral part of this course. It will be completed in small groups. You will select a topic that is interesting to you. We will provide milestones along the way that will help keep you on track. You will be presenting your work in the form of a powerpoint presentation to the class.
**Attendance & Class Participation:** You will get as much out of this experience as you put in to it. It is essential that you come prepared to class and in-country meetings. We will have some assignments to help you prepare, but ultimately it is up to you to make the most of this experience.

Emergencies, illness and the like do occur for even the best students, we expect you to notify us ahead of time if you are not able to make a meeting and give us a credible explanation why you are not able to make it. Being out late the night before will definitely NOT be an acceptable explanation.

**Piazza:** Piazza will be used to ask questions about course content and logistics throughout the course, including while in country.

Find our class page at: https://piazza.com/illinois/spring2018/econ199/home. If you have any problems or feedback for the developers, email team@piazza.com.

**Moodle:** We will use Moodle as our course homepage. All announcements will be posted on moodle. You will post your journal entries in moodle. There will be a series of milestones to keep you on track on your project. These will be on Moodle. You will post your progress on these milestones on moodle as well as your final project.

**Excused Absences:** On occasion, an emergency may arise which prevents you from attending a meeting, presentation or otherwise performing in the course. To be considered for an excused absence, you must provide the proper documentation explaining your absence to the instructor as early as possible. The Instructor will determine whether an accommodation is appropriate.

**Academic Integrity:** Violations of academic integrity as given in the Code on Campus Affairs will be taken extremely seriously. Students found cheating in the course (or helping others to cheat) will be penalized according to the Code’s guidelines.