

**DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

**POR375— Luso-Brazilian Literature (#45845)
(Brazilian Women Writers)**

Fall-2011

JES A207A (T/TH 11:00-12:30)

Instructor: Prof. Sonia Roncador

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Office hours: Mon 1:00-4:00 PM (or by appointment)

DESCRIPTION:

This is a course designed to introduce students to a great variety of texts by major Brazilian women writers from 19th century up to the present. One of the course's main purposes is to articulate these texts to women's own history in Brazil. It is also aimed at relating some of these texts to Brazilian women's journalism and film. Some topics of discussion include: Brazilian feminist movements and their impact on women's literature and press; women's social roles in domestic and public spheres as reflected in their own literature; working-class/ethnic women's testimonial literature; feminist scholarship in Brazil.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Course package with primary readings, available at Speedway (Dobie Mall, 478-3334)

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Consistent attendance is mandatory. Since **four** absences are allowed during the semester, please reserve them for illness, religious holidays or other personal emergencies, and do not consider them "free" days. Absence from a class is not an excuse for missing homework assignments or tests. As it is stated by the Academic Policies and Procedures of the General Catalog, "A student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible, so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence" (<http://www.utexas.edu/student/registrar/catalogs/gi05-06/ch4/ch4g.html>). Students must read all assigned texts in advance and should be able to answer the instructor's questions on the content and significance of the works; two or three questions will be posted on the blackboard "discussion board" prior to each class period. Final grade will be based on: class participation & attendance (10%) and homework (20%); three tests (45%); and one 08-10 page final paper (25%). In week 10, students will have

to orally present their final paper proposals. A one-on-one meeting to discuss their proposals will follow those oral presentations.

RULES AND POLICIES:

1. The tests cannot be taken before the designated dates. Make-ups are allowed only in cases of emergency. A student with an emergency should notify the instructor as soon as possible so that an arrangement can be made promptly and present documented evidence of the excuse.
2. Emergency is defined as:
 - A. Serious illness or accident or
 - B. Death, or serious illness, or accident in the students' immediate family. For other circumstances, consult the instructor.
3. Instructor will make herself available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that a student may require as a student with a disability. Before course accommodations will be made, students will be required to provide documentation prepared by the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (SSD). To ensure that the most appropriate accommodations can be provided, students should contact the SSD Office at 471-6259 or 471-4641. For more information, read regulations for Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd>.
4. Scholastic dishonesty: students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from The University of Texas. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For more information, visit Student Judicial Services (SJS) at <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/>.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Part 1: Early Women's Literature and Journalism (Topics of discussion: gender and the nation imaginings; early feminist movement in Brazil; the "domestic woman" model in Brazilian literature; national vs. foreign constructions of the Brazilian woman; intellectual women in the tropical *Belle Époque*)

08/25: Syllabus presentation

08/30: Introduction to women's literature in Brazil; required reading: Mary Louise Pratt. "Mulher, literatura e irmandade nacional"

(<http://www.issuu.com/heloisabuarquedehollanda/docs/tendenciaseimpasses>);

recommended: "Nádia Batella Gotlib. "A literatura feita por mulheres no Brasil" (blackboard)

09/01: Dionísia Gonçalves Pinto (pseud. Nisia Floresta Brasileira Augusta) (1809-1885). *Direitos das mulheres e injustiça dos homens* (excerpts)

- 09/06:** Early feminist press; required reading: June Hahner. “The Nineteenth-Century Feminist Press and Women’s Rights in Brazil”
- 09/08:** Júlia Lopes de Almeida (1862-1934). A selection of journalistic chronicles (from *Eles e elas*); suggested reading: Jeffrey Needell. “The Literary Belle Epoque in Rio”
- 09/13:** Emília Moncorva Bandeira de Melo (pseud. Carmen Dolores) (1852-1910). A selection of journalistic chronicles (from *Crônicas: 1905-1910*).
- 09/15:** Belle Époque feminist stories: Almeida’s “A caolha” and Dolores’s “Aunt Zeze’s Tears”
- 09/20: Test 1**

Part 2: Forging a “Feminine” Literary Canon (Topics of discussion: female literary celebrities; masculine and feminine “esthetics” and symbolisms; gender and modernity/modernism)

- 09/22:** Elaine Showalter. “A crítica feminista no território do selvagem” (<http://www.issuu.com/heloisabuarquedeholland/docs/tendenciaseimpasses>); recommended: Rita Felski “The Myths of Modernity” (blackboard)
- 09/27:** Early Modernist Fiction: Patricia Galvão (1910-1962). *Parque Industrial: romance proletário* (excerpts)
- 09/29: Q & A with Brazilian writer Ana Maria Gonçalves**
- 10/04:** Early Modernist Fiction: Rachel de Queiroz (1910-2003). *O Quinze* (excerpts); “Tangerine Girl”
- 10/06:** Early Modernist Poetry: A selection of poems by Cecília Meireles (1901-1964) and Gilka Machado (1893-1980)
- 10/11:** Clarice Lispector (1920-1977). “Felicidade clandestina;” “Restos do Carnaval” (from *Descoberta do mundo*)
- 10/13:** cont. “Amor” (from *Laços de família*)
- 10/18:** Lygia Fagundes Telles (b. 1923). “Antes do baile verde” (from *Antes do baile verde*); “Nada de novo na frente ocidental” (from *Invenção e memória*)
- 10/20: Test 2**
- 10/25: Final Essay proposal due**

Part 3: Democratizing Brazil & The “Boom” of Women’s Writing (Topics of discussion: militant women in the 1960s and the (re)birth of feminism in Brazil; the “boom” of women’s literature from the 1980s onward; feminist scholarship in Brazil; gender as seriality vs myth of sisterhood: the emerging homoerotic and black female voices)

- 10/27:** Iris Young “Gender as Seriality: Thinking about Women as a Social Collective” (from *Intersecting Voices*) (blackboard); recommended: Regina Dalcastagné. “A personagem do romance brasileiro contemporâneo;” Margareth Rago. “Adeus ao feminismo?: feminismo e (pós) modernidade no Brasil” (online resources)
- 11/01:** Carolina Maria de Jesus (1914-1977). *Quarto de despejo* (excerpts)
- 11/03:** Lya Luft (b. 1938). *A asa esquerda do anjo* (excerpts)
- 11/08:** Marcia Denser (b. 1949). “O vampiro da Alameda Casabranca” (from *Diana Caçadora: contos*)
- 11/10:** Sonia Coutinho. “O último verão de Copacabana” (from *O último verão em Copacabana*); “Noites de insônia com Stefan Zweig” (from *Mil olhos de uma rosa*)

11/15: Marilene Felinto (b. 1957). “Muslin Woman” (from *Postcard*)

11/17: Conceição Evaristo (b. 1946). “Da grafia-desenho de minha mãe, um dos lugares de nascimento de minha escrita”

11/22: Cintia Moscovich (b. 1958). “Mi Buenos Aires querido” (From *O reino das cebolas*); “Morte de mim” (From *Anotações durante o incêndio*)

11/24: Thanksgiving

11/29: Test 3

12/01: Oral presentations

Final Paper TBA