

Module title: Colonial power and desire: Narratives of Dissent in Portugal and Brazil

Module code: POR4036

Credit value: 15

Level: 4

Pre-requisite modules:

Content Description

In this module you will study a range of texts problematising sexual, religious and racial domination within the context of the Portuguese Empire, starting with the epic *The Lusiads* (Camões, 1570). Desire in the epic will find a vocal expression in the report to the King of Portugal by the scribe of the first Portuguese expedition to Brazil (1500). Brazil's natives' oral narratives cast into film will later be seen to confront rape and religious imposition whilst the African slaves' agency against racial domination will surface in their testimonials embedded in biographies. A critique of the land concentration model, prominent in *Raised from the Ground*, a novel by the Portuguese Nobel Prize José Saramago, in turn, will find a vivid visual deployment in Brazilian Sebastião Salgado's photography. The agency of both slaves and the dispossessed will be seen to play out in the narratives of two major social movements in Brazil today: the quilombola's and the landless rural workers'. All texts are available in English and Portuguese.

Module Aims

1. To give students a basic understanding of the culture of Portugal and Brazil in the historical contexts of Empire and colonisation.
2. To give students an understanding of the Portuguese Empire and its impact on Brazilian history and culture from the 16th century to our days.
3. To give students an understanding of challenges to empire and land concentration model within Portugal itself, including by major writers such as Camões and Saramago.
4. To give students an understanding of narrative agency by the powerless.
5. To give students an understanding of foundational texts and of important oral narratives for the transmission of historical memory across generations.

Learning Outcomes

Academic Content:

- A1 Analyse visual, written and oral texts as historical documents.
- A2 Discuss the relation between the historical past and its impact on today's social movements.
- A3 Understand the role of religion, desire and race in imperial projects.
- A4 Understand narrative agency by the powerless.
- A5 Understand possession and dispossession.

Disciplinary Skills – able to:

- B1 Demonstrate an understanding of cultural criticism.
- B2 Demonstrate interpretive skills related to contrasting historical perspectives.
- B3 Define the relation between the texts discussed in class and cultural history.
- B4 Develop a capacity to engage with material in its original language, using linguistic skills commensurate with the CEFR level appropriate for a level 4 module.

Attributes:

C1 Engage critically with knowledge.

C2 Clarity of communication.

C3 Research capacity.

Activity Hours

Activity Type	Time spent (hours)
Lecture	11
Seminar	11
Guided independent study	128
Total	150

Indicative Reading List

- Brava Gente/Brave People. Brazil, Lúcia Murat, 2001.
- Memórias do cativo/ Memories of Captivity. Bebeb Mattos and Martha Abreu. , LABHOI, Brazil, 2005. [<http://www.labhoi.uff.br/node/1487>]
- PHOTOGRAPHY AND DRAWINGS
- Salgado, Sebastião. Terra: Struggle of the Landless. Companhia das Letras, 1997
- The Landless Children's Drawings. In Vieira, Else R. P. Vieira (ed.). Landless-Voices I. [<http://landless-voices.org/vieira/archive-04.php?sc=1&ng=e&se=0&th=11>]. Last access 13-11-2017.
- de Caminha, Pero Vaz . 'The Letter of Pero Vaz de Caminha to King Manuel, 1 May 1500', in William Brooks Greenlee (trans.) The Voyage of Pedro Álvares Cabral to Brazil and Índia from Contemporary Documents and Narratives. New Delhi: Asian Educational Services, 5-33.
- In Portuguese: A carta de Pero vaz de Caminha. Ministério da Cultura: Fundação Biblioteca Nacional. http://objdigital.bn.br/Acervo_Digital/livros_eletronicos/carta.pdf]. Last access 13-11-2017
- de Camões, L. Vaz. The Lusiads. Transl. with an Introduction by Landeg White. OUP, 1997 (excerpts from Cantos I, Iv and IX)
- In Portuguese: Livros Digitais. [<https://www.livros-digitais.com/luis-de-camoes/os-lusiadas/469>]. Last access 13-11-2017
- Law, Robin and Lovejoy, Paul E. (Eds.) (2001) The Biography of Mahommah Gardo Baquaqua: His Passage from Slavery to Freedom in Africa and America. Princeton, N.J. : Markus Wiener Publishers.
- Saramago, José. Raised from the Ground. Transl. from the Portuguese by Margareth Jull. Vintage Books, 2013.
- In Portuguese: Saramago, José. Levantados do chão. Companhia das Letras, 2013.
- Altman, J.G. (1982) Epistolarity: Approaches to a Form. Columbus: Ohio State University Press (introduction).
- Guyton, Kiley. Lúcia Murat's Brave New Land as Anti-Foundational Text. On line text [lehman.cuny.edu/ciberletras/v14/guyton.htm]. Last accessed 18-02-2017.

- Hébrard, Jean M. (2013) 'Slavery in Brazil: Brazilian Scholars in the Key Interpretive Debates' In *Translating the Americas Volume 1* (<http://dx.doi.org/10.3998/lacs.12338892.0001.002>)
- Moser, Gerald M. What Did the Old Man of the Restelo Mean? *Luso-Brazilian Review*, Vol. 17, No. 2 (Winter, 1980), pp.139-151)
- Peabody, Sue (2012) 'Microhistory, Biography, Fiction: The Politics of Narrating the Lives of People under Slavery', in *Transatlantica*, 2 | 2012 : Cartographies de l'Amérique / Histoires d'esclaves.
- Reis, J. J. (1999) *Slaves as Agents of History: a Note on the New Historiography of Slavery in Brazil*. *Ciência e Cultura (SBPC)*, v. 51, n.5/6, p. 437-445.
- Reis, João José Reis. Domingos Pereira Sodré (2009) 'A Nagô Priest in Nineteenth-Century Bahia'. In: Falola, Toyin; Childs, Matt. (Eds.). *The Changing Worlds of Atlantic Africa: Essays in Honor of Robin Law*. 1ed. Durham: Carolina Academic Press, v. 1, p. 387-407.
- Reis, J. J. (2014) *Slave to Wealthy African Freedman: The Story of Manoel Joaquim Ricardo*. In: Lisa A. Lindsay; John Wood Sweet. (Eds.). *Black Atlantic Biography*. 1ed. Filadelfia: University of Pennsylvania Press, v. 1, p. 131-145.
- Retamar, Roberto Fernández. *Caliban and Other Essays*. Transl. by Edward Baker. Foreword by Fredric Jameson. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1989.
- Santiago, Silvano. *Destinations of a letter, Predestinations of a Country*. In Vieira, Else R. P. (guest editor). *Special Issue of Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies: Brazilian Postcolonialisms in Dialogue with Hispano America*, vol. 2(3). (2000).
- Sontag, Susan. *Regarding the Pain of Others*. Penguin Boks, 2004.
- Todorov, Tzvetan. *The Discovery of America: The Question of the Other*. HarperPerennial, 1992 (extracts)
- Toohey, Peter. *Reading Epic: An Introduction to the Ancient Narratives*. Taylor and Francis, 1992, pp. 1-19.
- Vieira, Else R. P. *Ig/noble Barbarians: Revisiting Latin American Modernisms*. In Fiddian, Robin. *Postcolonial Perspectives on Latin American and Lusophone Cultures*. Liverpool U. P., 2000, pp. 51-78.
- Vieira, Else R. P. *Enhancing Cultural Studies through the Web Mode of Organization and Publication of Archives'*. *International Journal of Technology, Knowledge and Society*, 2007, pp. 115-27.
- Vieira, Else R. P. *Music, Poetry and the Politicization of the Landless Identity*. In *Landless Voices in Song and Poetry. The Movimento dos Sem Terra of Brazil (Anthology)*. Compiled and annotated by Else R. P. Vieira. Translated by Bernard McGuirk. Co-edited by Bernard McGuirk and Else R. P. Vieira. Nottingham: CCC Press, 2007, pp. xxviii-li
- Vieira, Else R. P. *The Sounds and Sights of Dispossession: The Emerging Culture of the MST*. www.landless-voices.org (2003) (Children's drawings)
- Young, Robert. *Colonialisms and the desiring machine*. In *Colonial Desire: Hybridity in Theory, Culture, and Race*. Routledge, 1995, pp. 151-172. Available on line [<https://www.scribd.com/document/247326600/Robert-J-Young-Colonial-Desire-Hybridity-in-Theory-Culture-and-Race-1994-1-pdf>]