

Community Development in Brazil

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Course Description

This course will examine community development and built environment strategies in two cities in Brazil: Curitiba and Rio de Janeiro. This is a special topics class whereby graduate students in the UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research (SPPSR) will spend a week in Brazil meeting with planning officials, community economic development scholars, practitioners and activists to learn first-hand about community development issues facing Brazilians. In addition, the course will focus on built environment issues including housing, the role of community based organizations, transportation, and environmental and sustainable development strategies. This course will count toward completion of the community development and the built environment concentration in the Department of Urban Planning.

Course Format and Requirements

The course requirements are as follows:

1. ***Attend three preparatory class meetings during the Winter 2002 quarter.***
The first three meetings will be used to (1) plan the policy and planning topics to be covered in Brazil, (2) develop specific itineraries for each day, and (3) to finalize all of the logistical arrangements for the trip. These meetings will take place as follows:
 - Monday, February 11, 2002 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the 3rd floor student lounge.
 - Monday, February 18, 2002 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the 3rd floor student lounge.
 - Monday, February 25, 2002 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the 3rd floor student lounge.
2. ***Arrange a portion of the field activities in Brazil.*** During the Winter 2002 quarter student teams of three to four students will take the lead in arranging the field activities for each day. In addition, one team of student will be responsible for overall planning of the field trip. Upon returning to Los Angeles, each team will be responsible for writing and thanking each of the speakers with whom we visit during our Brazil field activities.

3. **Course reading.** Each student is responsible for completing the required course reading prior to beginning the field activities in Brazil. The required course reading will be distributed to students on Monday, February 25, 2002.
4. **Participate in five days of meetings and other field activities in Brazil.** On each of the five business days during the week of 25 March 2002, one of the teams will lead the entire class on a field trip and to meetings with policy and planning officials, and activists in Brazil. The entire itinerary should be confirmed in advance and distributed to each class member on the day prior to the field activities.
5. **Attend three concluding class meetings during the Spring 2002 quarter.** The purpose of these meetings will be to (1) debrief on the policy and planning issues explored in Brazil, (2) discuss the topics for and structure of the course term paper, (3) finalize any remaining administrative matters, and (4) discuss any final presentations to the broader SPPSR community.
6. **Complete a course paper on some aspect of community development in Brazil.** The paper should select a specific, clearly defined planning issue on the general theme of “community development.” The paper should be 7-10 pages in length (double-spaced, 12 point type, 1 inch margins, including figures, tables, and pictures, but not counting the abstract, bibliography or appendices).

Grading

Grading will be determined as follows:

1. **Attendance at preparatory and concluding class sessions and organization of London field activities** (1/3 of grade). Students will be asked to complete a form verifying their attendance and work in organizing the Brazil field activities.
2. **Participation in the Brazil field activities** (1/3 of grade). For each hour of London field activities missed, the minimum length of the course paper will be increased by one page.
3. **Course paper** (1/3 of grade). The final paper is due in my mailbox in the Center for the Study of Urban Poverty by **Monday, May** 2002 (hardcopy only, no electronic submissions). All late papers will be penalized 1/3 grade.