WHOLE SUMMER SESSION
ANT 324L / ANT 391 / LAS 324L / AFR 321: African Diaspora in the Americas
ANT 379 / 391: Field Research in Social Anthropology

RIO DE JANEIRO
BRAZIL
FACULTY-LED SUMMER ABROAD PROGRAM

Application Deadline: December 1
This course provides an overview of the theories, histories and politics of the African diaspora in the Americas. Students conduct a research project and also volunteer with CRIOLA, a Brazilian NGO, which works to improve the living conditions of black women within Brazil by training and preparing them to face the racism, sexism and homophobia current in Brazilian society. Volunteer positions give students the opportunity to interact widely with the CRIOLA community.

Courses take place at the Universidade Estado do Rio de Janeiro (UERJ), located between the historic Mangueira community and the world-famous Maracanã soccer stadium. In 2003, UERJ became the first Brazilian university to use affirmative action policies in its admission process. While attending the course on African Diaspora in the Americas, students will have the unmatched opportunity to read and debate on topics concerning black peoples while experiencing the very new and palpable effects of the greater presence of Afro-Brazilians in previously segregated institutions of higher learning.

Rio de Janeiro is famous for its natural setting, Carnaval celebrations, samba and other music and hotel-lined tourist beaches, such as Copacabana and Ipanema. Famous landmarks also include the giant statue known as Christ the Redeemer (Cristo Redentor), one of the new Seven Wonders of the World; Sugarloaf mountain (Pão de Açúcar); the Sambódromo, a permanent parade stadium used during Carnaval; Maracanã stadium, one of the world’s largest soccer stadiums; and its many favelas. Favelas are an essential part of understanding the makeup of Rio. These primarily black communities are informal urban settlements originating from independent ex-slave communities called quilombos. Favela residents make up 25 percent of the city and are the fastest growing group of the city’s population. Rio also boasts the world’s two largest forests growing inside an urban area, the Parque Estadual da Pedra Branca (White Stone State Park) and the famous Floresta da Tijuca (Tijuca Forest).

Dr. Vargas, a Brazilian native, teaches courses for AADS and LILLAS specializing in issues pertaining to race, politics, and social inequality, cultural studies, and social theory. Dr. Vargas has led this program in Rio for several years.

Courses meet various requirements in anthropology, Latin American studies and African & African diaspora studies.