

The Society for Biblical Studies
The Bible & Culture in the Brazilian Context
10 Day Cross Cultural Experience
30 March—8 April 2025
4 day elective: The Amazon and Rainforest returning 12 April 2025
Syllabus

Objectives:

- To engage important theological issues in the Brazilian context through in depth encounters with a wide variety of indigenous people.
- To become acquainted with the legacy of Western Colonialism and especially the role of the Bible in the process of Colonization
- To become acquainted with contemporary religious diversity in Brazil.
- To become acquainted with models of mission and the ingredients of effective mission
- To become acquainted with the legacy of liberation theology in Brazil
- To explore applications of learnings in parish settings
- To engage in dialogue with indigenous Christians

Preliminary Selected bibliography:

1. Amado, Jorge. *Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands*. Vintage, 2006.
2. _____. *The Violent Land*. New York: Avon Books, 1988.
3. Boff, Leonardo. *Introducing Liberation Theology*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1987.
4. _____. *Jesus Christ Liberator: A Critical Christology for Our Time*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1978.
5. Burdick, John. *Looking for God in Brazil: The Progressive Catholic Church in Urban Brazil's Religious Arena*. Berkeley, University of California Press, 1993.
6. Chestnut, R. Andrew. *Born Again In Brazil: The Pentecostal Boom and the Pathogens of Poverty*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1997.
7. _____. *Blessed Anastasia: Women, Race, And Popular Christianity in Brazil*. New York: Routledge, 1998.
8. Cone, James. *God of the Oppressed*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1997.
9. Cox, Harvey. *The Silencing of Leonardo Boff: The Vatican and the Future of World Christianity*. Meyer Stone, 1988.
10. Cunha, Euclides. *Backlands: The Canudos Campaign*. New York: Penguin, 2010.
11. Hale, Lindsay. *Hearing the mermaids Song: The Umbanda Religion in Rio de Janeiro*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2009.
12. Levine, Robert M. and John J. Crocitti, eds., *The Brazil Reader: History, Culture, Politics*. Durham: Duke University Press: 1999.
13. Lins, Pulo. *City of God*. New York: Blackcat, 1997.
14. Prandi, Reginaldo. "The Expansion of Black Music in White Society: Brazilian Popular Music and Legitimacy of Candomble." Paper presented at the XX

- International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Guadalajara, Mexico, April 1997.
15. Prior, Michael. *The Bible and Colonialism: A Moral Critique*. London: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.
 16. Silveira Campos, Leonildo. "Why Historic Churches Are Declining and Pentecostal Churches Are Growing in Brazil." In *In the Power of the Spirit: The Pentecostal Challenge to the Historic Churches in Latin America*. edited by Benjamin F. Gutiérrez and Dennis A. Smith. Louisville: Presbyterian Church USA, 1996.

Itinerary

Day 1
30.3, Su Depart U.S.A.

Day 2
31.3, M Theme: Church and Colonialism
Arrive Salvador, orientation and introductions
Field trip: Pelourinho (historical city walking tour), including Cathedral Basilica, Church and Convent of Sao Francisco, Museum of Afro-Brasileiro Heritage, Church of the Black People (Church of Nossa Senhora do Rosario dos Pretos)
Dinner is on your own at a restaurant near the hotel
Overnight in Salvador

Day 3
1.4, Tu Theme: Race and Syncretism
AM forum: Introduction to the Bible and Colonialism
Field trip: Axe Street Children's Project, Mercado Modelo, Forte San Antonio/Farol da Barra (Barra Lighthouse), Museo Arte Bahia
PM optional enculturated mass, Church of the Black People (Church of Nossa Senhora do Rosario dos Pretos)
Dinner is on your own at a restaurant near the hotel
Overnight in Salvador

Day 4
2.4, W Theme: Religious Diversity and the Contemporary Church in Brazil
Field trip: Church of Bon Fim, Candomble houses, meetings with local Protestant churches
PM optional Candomble ceremony
Dinner is on your own at a restaurant near the hotel
Overnight in Salvador

- Day 5
3.4, Th Theme: Heritage vs. *Order and Progress*
Flight from Salvador to Rio de Janeiro
Field trip: 15 November Square, Real Gabinete Portugues de Leitura, Arcos da Lapa, driving tour, Ipanema, Copacabana, Red Beach
Dinner is on your own at a restaurant near the hotel
Overnight in Rio de Janeiro
- Day 6
4.4, F Theme: Rio de Janeiro and its Social Context
Field trip: Favela Rocinha, Corcovado Mountain, Christ the Redeemer statue, Tijuca Forest
PM forum: Liberation Theology and Its Children
Dinner is on your own at a restaurant near the hotel
Overnight in Rio de Janeiro
- Day 7
5.4, Sa Theme: The Church & Social Responsibility
Field trip: Sugarloaf Mountain, Koinonia, Marilia Schuller, Central People's Institute
Dinner is on your own at a restaurant near the hotel
Overnight in Rio de Janeiro
- Day 8
6.4, Su Theme: Poverty & Opportunity
Field trip: ACAMJG (Association of Recycling Pickers), Jardim Gramacho landfill, Rocinha—Capoeira, Samba, Favela visits with Pastor Antonio Costa (*Rio de Paz*)
Dinner is on your own at a restaurant near the hotel
Overnight in Rio de Janeiro
- Day 9
7.4, M Theme: Free Day
Field trip: free time, evening transfer to airport, depart for USA
Dinner is on your own at a restaurant near the hotel
- Day 10
8.4, Tu Return to USA

4 Day Elective: The Amazon and the Rain Forest (\$1,487), based on 10 people enrolled)

- Day 10
8.4, Tu Theme: Aviary and Aquatic Life
Field trip: morning transfer to the airport for the flight to Manaus. Upon arrival, we transfer for a three hour journey by boat and van through the jungle to our Amazon Lodge.
Overnight in the Amazon

- Day 11
9.4, W Theme: Nature and Ecology of the Amazon Rain Forest
Field trip: reconnaissance and nature safari, sunrise excursion on the Amazon to experience the variety of bird and fish life, including an opportunity to see and perhaps swim with dolphins.
Overnight in Amazon
- Day 12
10.4, Th Theme: Exploring the Amazon
Field trip: guided by an expert naturalist, we trek into the jungle to become acquainted with the fauna and flora of the region. We will visit a remote village and learn about the unique lifestyle and culture of the villagers, including their adaptability to local conditions. Afternoon transfer to Manaus
Overnight in Manaus
- Day 13
11.4, F Theme: History and Culture
Field trip: Tour Manaus, including theatre, market. Transfer to the airport in Manaus for your return flight to Miami.
- Day 14
12.4, Sa Return to the USA

**Itinerary is subject to change due to a variety of local circumstances, including airline flight schedules, availability of speakers, opening and closing hours, etc.

**Meetings with local people (PM fora) are subject to change. Appropriate substitutions may be necessary.