

Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Brazil: Social Justice & Inequality in São Paulo

Course Code / Title: (SP/LANG 350) Advanced Portuguese Syntax, Written Composition, and Literature

Contact Hours: 60

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Portuguese Language / Literature

Language of Instruction: Portuguese

Prerequisites / Requirements: Advanced Portuguese I. Final placement at discretion of Academic Director.

Description

This course is aimed at students who have satisfactorily completed advanced level Portuguese courses and already master the use of systematic arrangement and organization of sentences to convey clear and coherent ideas in Portuguese. It is also suitable for heritage Portuguese speakers who have grown up in an environment in which Portuguese is spoken but lack academic training in language structure and stylistics. Students at this level have a superior knowledge of structure and vocabulary. It is expected that students can respond to both written and spoken thought-provoking prompts and ideation challenges in upper-level Portuguese.

In this course students are required to perform in-depth analysis of literature work in Portuguese by relating the socio-historical context in which the work was produced to the language and discourse strategies used by the author. Emphasis is placed on improving students' ability to understand and effectively use techniques and skills in academic writing. Lusophone literature will be explored to understand how human condition has been perceived and debated throughout the history of Portuguese-speaking nations, with a focus on Brazilian issues. By using academic and literary texts as a learning tool, students acquire reading and writing skills to enhance their understanding of Portuguese-speaking societies and underlying ideologies.

Content warning:

At times, this course intentionally invites students to engage with readings and content that are controversial. Students might find this disturbing. The intention is not to endorse perspectives, but rigorously engage with them. If certain material is emotionally challenging, students can discuss with the professor before or after class. Students may also leave the classroom without academic penalty, if the discussion becomes too emotionally challenging. Students are, however, responsible for all missed material, and so should arrange to get notes from another student or see the professor individually.

Objectives

In this course, students will:

- Master the fundamentals of academic writing and advanced grammar tools in Portuguese.
- Develop critical reasoning tools and techniques to understand and convey complex ideas in Portuguese including autobiographical incidents, argumentation, persuasive text writing, and literary analysis.

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- Gain the ability to provide perspectives on a variety of subjects in Portuguese.
- Develop effective techniques to compare essays, socio-political analyses, and academic views on a wide range of subjects.
- Enhance their ability to understand and apply effective techniques and skills in academic writing as provided by Brazilian ABNT (Brazilian Association of Technical Standards) rules.
- Strengthen their reading and writing competence to explore academic and literary stylistics, semantics, syntax, and pragmatics.

Course Requirements

Active participation is essential in this course. Students are expected to attend class regularly as outlined in the CET Attendance Policy. To succeed in this course, should read and bring to class all assigned materials, prepare for class discussion, and have a proactive attitude in class by asking questions and speaking up in class if a concept or assignment is unclear.

Given that literary works intrinsically convey culture-specific concepts and beliefs, no ethnocentric or culturally detrimental attitude will be tolerated during the course.

Graded assignments include:

- **Homework:** 15 weekly short papers (1½ -2 pages; ABNT style)
- **Quizzes:** 4 (monthly) short, mostly multiple-choice quizzes, covers only recent content.
- **Presentation:** 10 minutes, 5 minutes for Q&A. Each student will choose a topic of their own interest (preferably related to their own field of study/research) and will make an oral presentation with visual aids. The goal is to simulate a typical academic presentation in Brazilian conferences and symposia.
- **Final exam:** Longer, more complex questions to test students' comprehension of readings, grammar topics, and literature works from throughout the course.
- **Final paper:** 8-10 pages on a topic determined in consultation with the faculty member. The final paper should comply with ABNT style rules for academic papers, including citation and footnotes. It should focus on one specific topic of study/research, be related to the final presentation, and reflect advanced command of the Portuguese language. Assessment will be based on content, concrete and precise use of language, use of relevant sources, and cogent argumentation and analysis.

Grading

The final grade is determined as follows:

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|--------------------------|-----|
| • Participation | 5% |
| • Homework (15 at 1.33%) | 20% |
| • Quizzes (4 at 2.5%) | 10% |
| • Presentation | 20% |
| • Final exam | 15% |
| • Final paper | 30% |

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Readings

- Abreu, Antônio S. *Curso de redação*. São Paulo: Ática, 2004.
- Amâncio, Íris M. C., Jorge, Miriam L. S., and Nilma L. Gomes. *Literaturas africanas e afro-brasileira na prática pedagógica*. São Paulo: Autêntica, 2008.
- Candido, Antônio. *Presença da literatura brasileira* (vols. 1 & 2). Rio de Janeiro: Grupo Editorial Record/Bertrand Brasil, 2003.
- Castilho, Ataliba. T. *Gramática do português brasileiro*. São Paulo: Contexto, 2014.
- Cegalla, Domingos P. *Dicionário de dificuldades da língua portuguesa*. São Paulo: Lexikon, 2007.
- Fiorin, José L., and Francisco P. Saviolli. *Lições de texto – literatura e redação*. São Paulo: Ática, 2006.
- Fiorin, José L., and Francisco P. Saviolli. *Para entender o texto: leitura e redação*. São Paulo: Ática, 2007.
- Ilari, Rodolfo, and Renato Basso. *O português da gente – a língua que estudamos, a língua que falamos*. São Paulo: Contexto, 2014.
- Julião da Silva, Sérgio Duarte. *Atividades de literatura brasileira – para o ensino de Português Língua Adicional/ Português para Estrangeiros*. Rio de Janeiro: Telha, 2023.
- Marcuschi, Luiz A. *Da fala para a escrita – atividades de retextualização*. São Paulo: Cortez, 2001.
- Martins, Nilce S. *Introdução à estilística - a expressividade na língua portuguesa*. São Paulo: EDUSP, 2012.
- Miguel, Jorge. *Redação: interpretação de textos - escolas literárias*. São Paulo: DVS Ed., 2012.
- Moisés, Massaud. *A literatura brasileira através dos textos*. São Paulo: Cultrix, 2012.
- Moriconi, Ítalo. *Os cem melhores contos do século*. São Paulo: Objetiva/Cia. das Letras, 2009.
- Zampietro, Lineu M. *Português do Brasil como língua estrangeira*. São Paulo: Disal, 2018.

Additional Resources

- GloboPlay streaming channel.
- TV/Rádio Cultura streaming channel.
- Rádio CBN: news-only podcast
- University of São Paulo channels (TV USP and Rádio USP)

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Outline of Course Content

The following topics are explored concurrently.

Topic 1: Advanced grammar

- General review
- Hypothetical structures
- Relative pronouns and sentences
- Coordinating conjunctions and structures
- Subordinative clauses: purpose, reason, concession

Topic 2: Writing skills

- Converting spoken language into written language
- Applied morphology in composition
- Applied syntax in composition
- Rephrasing techniques
- Developing topic sentences
- Coherence and cohesion in text writing
- Critical reasoning

Topic 3: Literature

- Brazilian literature
- Lusophone literature in Africa
- Exploring society and ideology in literary texts
- Literature and politics
- Transgressive language and style in Lusophone literature: violating norms and featuring marginalized characters
- Metaphor and culturally implicit issues in literature

Topic 4: Stylistics

- Function and structure
- Objective and subjective language
- Enunciation and discourse
- Storytelling and composition
- Narrative subjects: agreement, conflict, collaboration, negotiation, friction
- Academic discourse versus non-academic discourse

Topic 5: Academic writing in Brazil

- Purpose and structure
- ABNT rules
- Exploring real academic materials (papers, presentations, articles)
- Converting personal writing into academic impersonal work
- Passive voice, reported speech, and impersonal assertions in academic writing