Vanderbilt University

Center for Latin American Studies Proposal to Create a Brazilian Studies Minor

Participating Departments

**African American and Diaspora Studies:** Professor Tiffany Patterson

**Anthropology:** Professor Beth Conklin

**History:** Professors Celso Castilho, Marshall Eakin, Jane Landers, Frank Robinson

**Spanish and Portuguese:** Professors Marcio Bahia, Earl Fitz, Emanuelle Oliveira

**Economics:** Professors Ana Regina Andrade, Mario Crucini, Isleide Zissimos

**Political Science:** Professor Mitch Seligson

**Peabody College: Leadership, Policy & Education, International Educational Policy:** Professor Stephen Heyneman

Brazilian Studies Minor

In keeping with the effort to enhance the international focus of undergraduate education at Vanderbilt University, in recognition of Vanderbilt’s historic ties to Brazil, at the recommendation of the Center for Latin American Studies’ National Advisory Board, and with the support of CLAS director, Ted Fischer, the Center for Latin American Studies proposes to create an interdisciplinary Brazilian Studies minor. It will build on a new core course and draw on existing courses with content on Brazil and new courses to be developed. This concentration will showcase the international expertise and perspectives of faculty from the College of Arts & Science departments of Anthropology, History, Spanish & Portuguese, Economics, Political Science, and Sociology and Peabody College’s Department of Leadership, Policy & Education.

- Brazil is the largest, most populous country in Latin America, with a population of nearly 200 million and a land mass comparable to the continental United States.
- It is a major emerging economy, and a member of the G-20 nations.
- It is the country in which Vanderbilt has its largest investments.
As the country with the largest portion of the world’s largest rainforest, Brazilian environmental policy greatly affects the future of global climate change.

As the largest non-Spanish speaking nation in Latin America, Brazil has distinct patterns of language, culture, and history that merit the integrated focus of study offered in this concentration.

With generous funding from the Carnegie Foundation, in 1947 Vanderbilt established the Institute for Brazilian Studies, the predecessor of our current Center for Latin American Studies.

Since that time, Vanderbilt has continued to invest resources in Brazilian Studies and now boasts perhaps the nation’s largest concentration of faculty with research interests in Brazil.

Vanderbilt has also developed one of the nations’ most significant library collections on Brazil.

Vanderbilt has developed a very successful Portuguese language and literature sequence that is now producing growing numbers of undergraduate students with Portuguese and interested in further study of Brazil.

Since 2003 Vanderbilt has had Department of Education funding for graduate student exchanges with Brazil through the FIPSE/CAPES Consortia, all of which focus on the comparative study of Brazil and the United States. To date twenty-one Brazilian undergraduates have studied at Vanderbilt and sixteen Vanderbilt graduate students have studied in Brazil.

Now that undergraduates are also becoming fluent in Portuguese, the College of Arts & Science has approved the FIPSE/CAPES program for similar undergraduate exchanges and our first undergraduate student will study in Brazil this summer.

Vanderbilt has hosted the international Brazilian Studies Association with support from the College. BRASA distributes a weekly email on s (with Vanderbilt.edu address) that reaches 1500 subscribers. Vanderbilt hosted the international meeting of BRASA in 2006.

Over the past decade Vanderbilt has hosted a variety of special symposia, international meetings, as well as other events related to Brazil, and has hosted a variety of major political figures and visiting faculty from Brazil.

A New Core Course: Introduction to Brazilian Studies was launched in 2011

To anchor the new concentration, we have created a new core course called Introduction to Brazilian Studies (LAS 202) modeled after the very successful Introduction to Latin American Studies (LAS 201), the core course for Latin American Studies. LAS 202 was offered for the first time in Fall 2011. The course will be taught by Frank Robinson and participating faculty lecturers included: Beth Conklin (Anthropology); Marshall Eakin, Jane Landers, and Celso Castilho (History); Earl Fitz, Emanuelle Oliveira, and Marcio Bahia (Spanish & Portuguese); Isleide Zissimos, (Economics); Mitch Seligson (Political Science); and Steve Heyneman (Peabody).
LAS 202 had an enrollment of 24 students in Fall 2011 and 23 in the Fall of 2012.

Frank Robinson took primary responsibility for designing the core course and syllabus. A grant from VIO helped make the creation of the new course possible. As in LAS 201, participating faculty from the variety of departments delivered lectures designed to introduce students to the range of disciplines and approaches for the study of Brazil. The broad goal for the course is to develop increased interest in and knowledge about perhaps the most significant country in Latin America.

All students wishing to concentrate in Brazilian Studies will be required to take the core course and take, or test out of, Portuguese 200. Students who test out of PORT 200 and do not have credit for it must substitute a course from Area I, II, or III. In addition, students would complete three additional courses from three designated areas of study—Portuguese Language and Literature; Brazilian Society, History, and Cultures; Brazil in Regional and Global Context. Departments already offer approximately twenty-five courses from which students could compose their minor.

To conclude, the new Brazilian Studies minor will stand alongside the already existing major and minor in Latin American Studies. It will have a core course taught by Frank Robinson. Celso Castilho and Marshall Eakin can also serve as instructors for LAS 202. Advising for the minor will be done by the Associate Director of Latin American Studies who is the DUS. No addition funding or resources are requested.

### Publicity and Recruitment for Brazilian Studies at Vanderbilt

#### Enhanced Website Visibility for Brazilian Studies at VU

CLAS will support the initiative to enhance Brazilian Studies at Vanderbilt by dedicating space on its website to faculty and students with interests in Brazil and to ongoing projects related to Brazil, such as the FIPSE/CAPES student exchange program which Vanderbilt has administered since 2000 and which held its international directors’ meeting at Vanderbilt in 2006, and the Brazilian Studies Association, which is hosted at Vanderbilt and which also held its international conference at Vanderbilt in 2006. The website will also feature visiting scholars and students from Brazil and the major Brazilian collections in the Heard Library. In addition, it will link to podcast lectures or interviews and other media presentations of VU faculty focused on Brazil and maintain a calendar of Brazil-related events.
Brazil Week

As a way to focus attention on our many dispersed strengths in Brazilian Studies and to recruit undergraduate students, we have revived Brazil Week, which was first launched in 2002 but which has only been repeated in 2005 and 2009. CLAS director, Ted Fischer, allocated $3000 to help support Brazil Week in 2010 and we hope that this event will become a regular annual event in the CLAS calendar. Brazil Week has now continued with great success for the past three years.

Last year’s Brazil Week featured two major symposia. The first, “Africa, Brazil and the Atlantic World” was designed to enhance collaboration with our core partner, the Universidade de São Paulo, and included research presentations by the chair and two members of that university’s history faculty and a fourth by the chair of anthropology at the nearby UNICAMP. The second, “Human Rights in Brazil,” featured speakers from Tulane University and Vanderbilt.

Other events have included:
- A series of lectures and panels on Brazil by visiting speakers and VU faculty;
- A film event focused on Brazilian culture and history;
- A capoeira workshop/demonstration;
- And exhibits in the Library, and in the Art Gallery and in Sarratt Art Gallery;
- A closing festa with Brazilian food and musical performances

Brazil Week has become an annual event that is incorporated into the core course, LAS 202.

A Regular Brazilian Studies Speakers Series; A Brazilian Studies Cinema Series; and Black History Month Events

The Center for Latin American Studies and its Brazilianists have committed to the development of a regular Brazilian Studies Speakers Series and have managed to secure funding for these speakers through a variety of departments and programs, including the Vanderbilt History Seminar and the History Department, The Center for Latin American Studies, The Program in African and Diaspora Studies, the Spanish & Portuguese Department, and the Robert Penn Warren Center’s Circum-Atlantic Studies Working Group. Likewise, a Brazilian film series in which faculty, and/or local personalities was introduced in the Fall of 2010 with the showing of three films related to human rights, which was integrated into the core course. And with support from the Robert Penn Warren Center, the focus for the Circum-Atlantic Studies Working Group’s annual Black History Month in February 2011 was the slave trade links between Angola and Brazil. This and subsequent Black History Month events have provided additional opportunities to showcase Brazil.
12 March 2013

To whom it may concern:

The Center for Latin American Studies proposes the creation of a new minor in Brazilian Studies. This will meet growing demand among students who have an interest in this increasingly important country. We have already instated what will serve as the core class for the minor (Introduction to Brazilian Studies), and the other courses that will fulfill the minor are already on the book in our various constituent departments. Our survey of student interest indicates that there will be adequate demand to merit the creation of a minor.

The CLAS Steering Committee approved this minor last year (the vote in favor was 6-0, with one member absent and abstaining).

The Brazilian Studies minor will also add support to Vanderbilt’s long and substantial commitment to Brazilian Studies.

Thank you for your consideration.

Edward F Fischer
Director, Center for Latin American Studies
Dear CEP:

I wish to encourage you to approve the Brazilian Studies Minor that has been submitted by the Center of Latin American Studies. It does not overlap with our Portuguese Minor, which requires that all courses be taken in our Department. The Brazilian Studies Minor has a much stronger interdisciplinary approach.

I support the approval of the Brazilian Studies Minor and believe that it will encourage students to continue their study of Portuguese, not distract from it.

Thank you,

Cathy L. Jrade
Chancellor’s Professor of Spanish
Chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese
Minor in Brazilian Studies

The Center for Latin American Studies also offers a minor in Brazilian Studies. Students must complete 15 credit hours of approved courses with Brazilian content including LAS 202 and Portuguese 200. In addition, students must complete three additional courses from the Areas of Study listed below: one course in Area I, one course in Area II, and one course in Area III. Proficiency at the level of intermediate Portuguese can be demonstrated through testing. If this option is exercised, students must take 3 credit hours of coursework approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies in lieu of the 3 credit hours of PORT 200.

Course selection must be approved by the director of undergraduate studies for Latin American Studies. Other elective courses, including special topics courses, may be counted toward the minor with the approval of the director of undergraduate studies.

Requirements for completion of the minor include at least 15 credit hours as follows:

1. 3 credit hours of LAS 202: Introduction to Brazil
2. 3 credit hours of PORT 200: Intermediate Portuguese (PORT102 is a prerequisite)
3. 3 credit hours from Area I: Portuguese Language and Literature
4. 3 credit hours from Area II: Brazilian Society, History, and Cultures
5. 3 credit hours from Area III: Brazil in Regional and Global Context

AREAS OF STUDY

Area of Study I: Portuguese Language and Literature

PORTUGUESE: 201: Portuguese Composition; 205: Introduction to Luso-Brazilian Literature; 232: Brazilian Literature through the Nineteenth Century; 233: Modern Brazilian Literature

Area of Study II: Brazilian Society, History, and Cultures

ANTHROPOLOGY: 249: Indigenous Peoples of Lowland South America

HISTORY: 249: Brazilian Civilization

PORTUGUESE: 203: Brazilian Pop Culture; 225: Brazilian Culture through Native Material; 291: Brazilian Civilization through English Language Material; 295: Special Topics in Portuguese and Brazilian Literature or Civilization in English

Area of Study III: Brazil in Regional and Global Context

AFRICAN AMERICAN AND DIASPORA STUDIES: 140: Blacks in Latin America and the Caribbean; 145: Atlantic African Slave Trade

ANTHROPOLOGY: 210: Culture and Power in Latin America
ECONOMICS: 222: Latin American Development

HISTORY: 137: Colonial Latin America; 138: Modern Latin America; 245: Reform, Crisis, and Independence in Latin America, 1700-1820; 251: Reform and Revolution in Latin America; HIST 254a. Race and Nation in Latin America

POLITICAL SCIENCE: 217: Latin American Politics; 228: International Politics of Latin America

SOCIOLOGY: 277: Contemporary Latin America
Hi, Michael. This is to confirm that the CEP has unanimously approved the Brazilian Studies minor by a vote of 5-0. Please pass our approval on to the Faculty Council.

Thanks,

Calvin