

**ARTS AND ECOSYSTEMS  
PLSC 267**

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**Credit Hours:** 3

**Course Description:**

Students will learn about Brazilian design, culture and ecological systems contrasted with familiar materials from home. Students will learn to document places with spatial accuracy while traveling. Students will chose from selected sites to develop a landscape design proposal in Brazil that will be informed by program travel. Field visits will be incorporated into the course structure. Students will develop proposals that promote sustainable design.

**Requirements & Grading:**

Grades will be based on a straight arithmetic average with:

93-100	A	80-82	B-	67-69	D+
90-92	A-	77-79	C+	63-66	D
87-89	B+	73-76	C	60-62	D-
83-86	B	70-72	C-	< 60	F

**Assignments:**

**Readings:** Students will be provided with a packet of articles on December 7 that should be read before arriving in Rio de Janeiro. Additional handouts/articles will be assigned in Brazil.

**Reflective journal:** Students will maintain a reflective journal from their experiential perspective with entries each day during the program. One sketchbook can be used for journaling, field sketching and note taking in Brazil. Writing will be guided by

questions and statements pertaining to lecture and field visits from that day. Reflective journals will be turned in and graded at the end of our first stay in Rio and at the end of the program. (25% of final grade)

**Tests:** Quizzes will be given periodically (starting with Longwood field trip) throughout the program using a small group discussion format and IFAT answer sheets. Students will take the quiz first individually and then discuss the correct answers in their small group. The group will reach consensus on the correct answers and students will receive a grade as a group.

A final exam will be administered on January 28. A short answer and essay format will be used.  
(25% of final grade)

**Project:** Students will collaborate in groups (3-4 students per group) to create a design that synthesizes the information covered in lecture and field visits for a public space in Rio de Janeiro. Students will present their projects graphically and orally using drafting and sketching techniques on January 31.  
(25% of final grade)

**Class Discussion/ participation:** Students will be expected to participate in class discussions and ask relevant questions of tour guides and guests throughout the program. Peer evaluation will count toward the participation grade. (25% of final grade)

### **Class Policies:**

**Lateness:** Lateness will not be tolerated. On time arrival is required for all activities, classes, events and departures. Each failure to be present and ready at the appointed time for any activity results in a 1/3 letter grade deduction in one course grade (e.g. for one lateness, a B becomes a B-; for two late appearances, a B becomes a C+). Penalties double with every five minutes of lateness. Note that letter grade penalties in courses are assessed for lateness to ANY activity, including meals or entertainment. Lateness that results in missing an activity (we will leave if we need to make our destination by a certain time) will result in a zero for that activity, reducing the course grade.

Appropriate Behavior:

Appropriate behavior is required at all times. Failure to behave appropriately in any instance has the same penalty as lateness. Examples of inappropriate behavior include talking or being disruptive while others are speaking in a formal setting (e.g., classes, meetings) and disruptive, loud behavior in the hotel. This includes respectful behavior with roommates.

### Lecture Schedule:

Date	Lecture	Presenter	Location
Jan. 3	The World of Plants	Sue	Hotel
Jan. 4	Brazil Basics	Sue	Jardim Botanico
	Burle Marx -The Man	Chad	Jardim Botanico
Jan. 5	Culture and Brazilian Food	Chad	Hotel
Jan. 7	Sense of Place	Sue	Hotel/Jardim Botanico
	Site Impressions	Jules	Hotel/Jardim Botanico
	Intro to Brazilian Painters	Jules	Jardim Botanico
Jan. 8	Symbiosis	Jules	Jardim Botanico
	Patterns in the Landscape	Sue/Jules	Hotel
	Invasive Plants (maybe AM on Jan. 9)	Sue	Hotel
Jan. 10	Design Styles –Compare and Contrast	Jules	Jardim Botanico
	Music and Design	Chad	Jardim Botanico
	Brazilian Music – Plants and Instruments	Chad	Jardim Botanico
	Mata Atlantica (maybe AM on Jan. 11)	Chad	Hotel
Jan. 16	Conservation vs. Colonialism	Sue	Pantanal Hotel
Jan. 24	Modern Architecture in Brasilia	Carl	Brasilia Hotel
	Architecture in Washington, DC	Chad	Brasilia Hotel
Jan. 26	Art in the Landscape	Sue/Jules	Brasilia Hotel
	Design Principles and Elements	Jules	Brasilia Hotel
Jan. 27	Design Basics	Jules	Jardim Botanico
	Carnival and Brazilian Dance	Chad	Jardim Botanico