Course Description:

What do we mean when we talk about Human Rights? The first article of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) states: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.” Nevertheless, the violation of this principle has been a constant throughout Brazilian history, including in recent times. Abuse has been pervasive: the practice of torture before, during and after the dictatorship’s years (1964-1985); the violence perpetrated by the military police in the *Carandiru* and *Candelaria* massacres; the contemporary forms of slavery in rural areas; the displacement of communities of indigenous people; the homicides motivated by misogynist, racist or homophobic mindsets; the inhuman conditions of the prisons. The list goes on. The violation of human rights has informed the works of many Brazilian directors. Their films remind us that the respect of fundamental human rights is not a given, but needs the vigilant eyes of well-informed citizens. This course offers an examination of human rights violations in Brazil and will be supported by critical readings by major thinkers in Brazilian cinema.

Required Material:

1. Articles distributed in class
2. On-line material
   * Short films available at: portacurtas.org.br

Course Objectives:

- To get acquainted with the story of human rights and human rights violation in Brazilian society.
- To reflect on violence as a constitutive element of Brazilian history.
- To study and critically engage with forms of criticism and resistance against violence.
- To understand major issues and obsessions present in Brazilian culture and society through the prism of cinema.
• To improve students’ oral and writing skills in Portuguese.

**Teaching Methodology:**
Lecture conducted entirely in Portuguese. Each class will consist of a presentation on the central topic followed by a discussion on the readings/videos assigned.

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**Tentative Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1: Introduction</th>
<th>Home Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M. - Brazilian Cinema and Human Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Ilha das flores</em> (Jorge Furtado, 1989)</td>
<td>Read and print the syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. - Human rights (discussion)</td>
<td>Read “Declaração Universal dos Direitos Humanos”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watch short movie <em>Direitos Humanos: a Exceção e a Regra</em> (Gringo Cardia, 2008).*</td>
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<th>Week 2: Hunger and Illiteracy in the Sertão</th>
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<tr>
<td>M. - <em>Martin Luther King Day</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>W. - <em>VIDAS SECAS</em> (Nelson Pereira dos Santos, 1963) Watch <em>Vidas Secas</em></td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 3: <em>Vidas secas</em></th>
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<tr>
<td>W. – A obra de Graciliano Ramos no cinema</td>
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<th>Week 4: <em>Central do Brasil</em></th>
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<tr>
<td>W. Film Discussion Continues</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 5: Urban Landscapes, urban violence (1)</th>
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<td>W. - Film Discussion Continues</td>
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<th>Week 6: Urban landscapes, urban violence (2)</th>
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<tr>
<td>M – <em>ÔNIBUS 174</em> (José Padilha, 2002) Watch <em>Ônibus 174</em> - Write response paper 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>W – Film Discussion Continues</td>
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</table>
Week 7: Tourism in the favelas

M – *Pra inglês ver* (Robson Dias, 2011)

W – Film Discussion Continues

Week 8: Dictatorship and Cinema (1)

M – *O QUE É ISSO COMPANHEIRO?*  
(Bruno Barreto, 1997)  

**MIDTERM - ESSAY**  
Watch *O que é isso companheiro?*  
Response p. 4

W – Film Discussion Continues

Week 9: Dictatorship and Cinema (2)

M. – *BATISMO DE SANGUE* (Helvecio Ratton, 2006)  

Watch *Batismo de sangue*  
Response paper 5

W. – Film Discussion Continues

Week 10: Dictatorship and Cinema (3)

M. – *QUE BOM TE VER VIVA* (Lúcia Murat, 1989)  

Watch *Que bom te ver viva*  
Response paper 6

W. – Film Discussion Continues

Week 11: The cinema of Sérgio Bianchi

M. – *QUANTO VALE OU É POR QUILO?* (Sérgio Bianchi, 2005)  

Watch *Quanto vale...*  
Response paper 7

W. – Film Discussion Continues

Week 12: The cinema of Sérgio Bianchi

M. - *CRONICAMENTE INVIÁVEL*  
(Sérgio Bianchi, 2000)  

Watch *Cronicamente Inviável*  
Response p. 8

W. – Film Discussion Continues

Week 13: The documentaries of Eduardo Coutinho

M. – *BABILONIA 2000* (Eduardo Coutinho,  

Watch *Babilonia 2000*  
Response paper 9

W. – Film Discussion Continues
Week 14: Representations of Disability

M. – ESTAMIRA (Marcos Prado, 2004)  
Watch Estamira - Response paper 10

W. – Film Discussion Continues

Week 15: Bioethics in film

M. – UMA HISTÓRIA SEVERINA (Debora Diniz e Eliane Brum, 2005)

W. – Film discussion continues

Week 16: Conclusion

M. General discussion on the course

W. FINAL PAPER

Assessment:

Students will come to class after watching the movie assigned. They will write a 1 page-response paper in Portuguese for each movie. They must be prepared for discussion about the readings assigned.

The Midterm will consist in a 5-page (double-spaced) essay in Portuguese.

The Final Paper will consist of 6 pages (double-spaced) in Portuguese according to the MLA (Modern Language Association) style. Check MLA Style guidelines at: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/

The topic of your final paper must be discussed with the instructor during office hours or by appointment.

Grading: Active Participation 20%

Response Papers 20%

Midterm Essay 30%

Final 30%

Grading Scale:

A: 100 – 95  A-: 94 – 90
B+: 89 – 87  B: 86 – 84  B-: 83 – 80
C+: 79 – 77  C: 76 – 74  C-: 73 – 70
D+: 69 – 67  D: 66 – 64  D-: 63 – 60
F: 59 and below
Assistance is required. Students who cannot come to class due to University sanctioned events (athletes, debaters, musicians, etc.) or family-related events (funerals, marriages, etc.) must inform the professor in advance.

It is extremely important to arrive in class on time. Be aware that disrupting the class with late arrivals will not be tolerated. A 10 minutes delay counts as one absence.

Missing class will be penalized each time by one percentage point. In case of an emergency (illness, hospitalization, etc.) you are required to provide a note from your doctor or another official and verifiable documentation.

--->Absolutely no text messaging or use of cell phones, i-pods, MP3, computers and other electronic devices during class. Turn them off or leave them home.

Academic Misconduct (as set out in FIU policies):

As a student of this university, you are expected:
• to be honest in your academic endeavors.
• not represent someone else's work as your own.
• not cheat, nor aid in another's cheating

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and are punishable up to and including expulsion from the University.

Please, get better acquainted with what is considered “Academic Misconduct:”
http://www2.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/1acmisconductproc.htm

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE NECESSARY CHANGES IN THE SYLLABUS.