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### **Project Overview**

This project is an overview of the influence of Abdias de Nascimento as the impetus for the Black Arts Movement in Brazil. To generalize, some North American curriculums include the works of literary giants such as Langston Hughes, Arna Bontemps, likewise, artists like Jacob Lawrence, however, very little is generally taught about the Black Arts movement in S. America, particularly Brazil. If we are to teach or learn about the African diaspora we must begin to include S. America and any other place that Black people have added to the aesthetic. Black contributions need to be explored, documented, taught, and shared with the community at large. The influence of Abdias de Nascimento must be included in our knowledge base.

As in Africa where life, culture, and art are intertwined, so it is in Afro-Brazilian life. Therefore, in addition to Nascimento, we must explore Afro-Brazilian culture in terms of its intersections with the spiritual system and forms of resistance to enslavement.

This project can be used as a model for inter-disciplinary groups to decolonize the curriculum in their particular content areas. For example, the topics of this project could be used to inform the decolonization of History, African American Studies, and Theater. For the purpose of this work, “Decolonization “is the process of deconstructing colonial ideologies of the superiority and privilege of Western thought and approaches (Opentextbc.ca)”.

Summarily, this curriculum project will increase the cultural competence regarding Afro-Brazilian culture for the Science, Technology, and Race Learning community, and members and allies in the anti-racism community, who are the main audiences for this project.

## **Learning objectives**

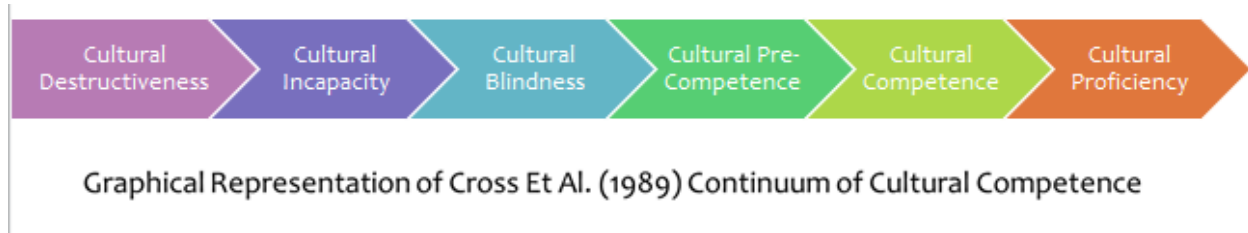
- 1) Understand the key influence of Abdias do Nascimento as the impetus for the Black Arts Movement in Brazil
- 2) Developing an understanding of other elements of Afro-Brazilian Culture and their intersections in term of spiritual systems and forms of resistance to enslavement
  - a. Candomble'
  - b. Capoiera
  - c. Enslavement of Afrikan people
  - d. Quilombos
- 3) Synthesize the lessons and be able to have an increased cultural competence based on the scale by Cross et al., 1989.

## **Guiding Questions**

- 1) In what ways did Abdias do Nascimento contribute to the Black Arts Movement in Brazil?
- 2) In what ways does Afro-Brazilian Culture persist in Brazil?
- 3) How can this content be used to decolonize your curriculum or work?
- 4) What other expressions of Afro-Brazilian culture have you found in your research?
- 5) What similarities and differences are there between the descendants of slavery in the US and Brazil? i.e. struggles/resistance/culture

## Assessments

- 1) Pre and post questionnaire based on the cultural competence scale by Cross et al. (1989)



- 2) Reflective Writing - film series (3)

- **Reflection # 1 Movie or Literary Selection (Selected by Instructor)**
- A reflection is a personal reaction as you look back to an event or experience. Reflecting upon an item allows you to analyze the event or idea and to think carefully about what the event or idea means for you at this moment and how it may impact you in the future.
- Directions for reflection. Reflections should be a maximum of 2 pages, typed and double spaced. As opposed to a term paper, your reflective writing can be free flowing as if you are writing in a journal or diary. In other words, reflective writing is personal. Below are some basic guidelines for your reflection but feel free to construct it anyway that expresses how you feel about the movie or literature from your heart. Be sincere.
  - Description: Describe the movie or literature briefly.
  - Interpretation: What was the most important concept or interesting thing you learned or experienced while watching the movie or reading the literature?

- Impact: How do I feel about this movie or literature? How can I apply what I've learned?

**Modules** (This material will be discussed over 3-5 modules depending on pace.)

Module 1

- a. Pre- measurement based on the cultural competence scale by Cross et. All (1989)
- b. Abdias do Nascimento
  - a. Discussion of Nascimento
    - i. Activist
  - b. Afro-Brazilian Leaders: Abdias do Nascimento & Natal da Portela (film)
    - i. Film viewing and reflection #1

Module 2

- c. Abdias do Nascimento
  - a. Discussion of Nascimento
    - i. Playwright
    - ii. Painter

Module 3

- a. Enslavement of Afrikan people
- b. Quilombos
  - a. Quilombo (film)
    - i. Film viewing and reflection #2

Module 4

- a. Candomble with special guest
  - a. Besouro (film)
    - i. Film viewing and reflection #3

Module 5

- c. Blacks in Latin America – Henry Louis Gates (section on Brazil)
  - d. Capoeira with special guest
  - e. Post - measurement based on the cultural competence scale by Cross et. All. (1989).
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## Reference Materials

### Field experiences/Discussions

- Inhotem Museum, Belo Horizonte, Menais Gervais, Brazil – primary research photos of documents and exhibit (Summer 2022)
- Casa do Olodum (The House of Olodum) (15 July 2022)
  - Location: R. Maciel de Baixo, 22 - Pelourinho, Salvador - BA, 40026-240, Brazil Salvador, Bahia, Brazil
- Ilê Axé Opô Aganju (16 July 2022)
  - Location: Rua Saketê , 36, Vila Praiana, Lauro de Freitas, BA, Brazil, 42700-000
  - (terreiro de Candomblé)
  - Notes: JM attended Xango Ceremony, Founder of the terreiro is Obarayi.
- Terreiro São Jorge Filho da Goméia or Terreiro do Portão (13 July 2022)
  - Location: Lauro de Freitas , Salvador, BA, Brazil
  - (Notes: in the Congo tradition with individual houses on site for their \_\_\_\_\_ (aka Orisha's in the Yoruba tradition)
- Fundação Internacional de Capoeira Angola (International Foundation of Capoeira Angola), Mestre Valmir (Master Valmir) (16 July 2022)
  - Location: R. Maciel de Cima, 8 - Pelourinho, Salvador - BA, 40026-250, Brazil
- Comunidade Quilombola de Pittanga de Palmares (18 July 2022)
  - Location: Simoes Filho, Bahia
  - Mama Bernadete

### Lectures

- The African Contribution to Contemporary Brazilian Society, Gilberto Leal
- Environmental Racism, Pandemic Impact in the Indigenous and African Communities, Prof. Diosmar Santanna
- History of enslavement in Brazil and Enslaved Resistance, Prof. Luciana Brito, UFRB
- Midiartivism-art and media in favor of social causes, Prof. Ricardo Freitas, UNEB
- Various nuggets of wisdom from tour guides and historians Paula Santos and Roberto Merces

### Films

- Afro-Brazilian Leaders: Abdias do Nascimento & Natal da Portela
- Quilombo

- Besouro
- Blacks in Latin America – Henry Louis Gates (Section on Brazil)

### **Books**

Cleveland, Kimberly, L. (2013) *Black Art in Brazil: Expressions of Identity*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida.

Elyette Guimarães de Magalhães, Elyette, *Orixás da Bahia*, (2003)

Meade, Teresa (2010). *A Brief History of Brazil*

Nascimento, Abdias do and Nascimento, Elisa Larkin (1992). *Africans in Brazil: A Pan-African Perspective*. Trenton, N. J: Africa World Press

Nascimento A. do. (1995). *Orixás : os deuses vivos da africa = orishas : the living gods of africa in brazil*. IPEAFRO/Afrodiaspora.