**UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY**

**UDM Brazil GPA Itinerary**

**São Luis, Cachoeira and Salvador da Bahia**

**2018 Tentative Itinerary – This itinerary may change depending on the availability of guest lecturers, flight schedules, and other factors.**

ITINERARY

Day 1

Departure for Brazil

Day 2

Morning - Arrive Sao Luis

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM – Orientation Lecture on Sao Luis

2:00 PM – Field Trip - African Heritage Tour of São Luis – Panorama of Sao Luis visiting the restored Historic Center of the city.

**Rationale:** São Luis do Maranhão is a city with rich folk traditions that blend French, Indian and African influences. It is the only city in Brazil colonized by the French, but its African roots are the most prominent and diverse there. São Luis is the home of the Tambor de Mina Festival, the Festa do Divino, and other cultural and religious practices that can be traced directly to Dahomey. We will also visit the Museu de Bumba Meu Boi and the Cafua das Merces/ Museu do Negro – Museum of Black Culture. **(Obj. 2,3)**

**Evening Debriefing session**

Day 3

8:30 AM – 10:30 Portuguese Class – The Centro de Cultura Negra do Maranhão (CCN)**(Obj. 2)**

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM Attend an overview of The Centro de Cultura Negra do Maranhão, our host in Sao Luis, to learn about their role in community development, particularly with the quilombo communities in the state.

**Rationale:** The Centro de Cultura Negra do Maranhão develops black identity through cultural activities such as music, dance and spirituality. Afro- descendants in São Luis, Maranhão more frequently participate in racial politics through black identity formation within cultural activities because few, if any, spaces for racial politics exist outside of the Centro de Cultura Negra do Maranhão. **(Obj. 2,3)**

12:00 – 1:30 - LUNCH at the center with children and families in the community.

2:00 – 3:30 AM – Lecture on racial politics and black identity

**Rationale:** To learn more about the role of black movements in politics today and how several movements have converged in recent years to shine light on unequal representation between blacks and whites. **(Obj. 2, 3)**

**Evening Debriefing session. Bring journals for reference and discussion.**

Day 4

Field Trip - 9:00 AM – Alcântara / Full day – Alcântara is an ancestral African territory comprising 152 villages that have economic autonomy and live by very traditional means. The town is surrounded by quilombolas and the sense of Brazil’s African-Brazilian past hangs heavily in the air.

**Rationale:** The quilombo communities were originally villages set up by self-liberated Africans who had sought their liberty by fleeing from the farms and plantations of their colonial masters. These villages became the areas of residence, resistance and social organization, and were managed according to the rules and customs of these indigenous peoples. Most of these communities have existed for more than 250 years. **(Obj. 2,3)**

Day 5

Breakfast Buffet

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM - Portuguese Lessons (**Obj. 2)**

11:00AM – 1:00 PM - Lecture on Recent Elections: Women in Politics with Question and Answer Period

2:00 PM - Afternoon debriefing and reflection session.

**Rationale:** To learn more about current political climate and Brazil and how women influenced the last election. **(Obj. 2,3)**

Day 6

Breakfast Buffet

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM - Portuguese Lessons (**Obj. 2) – cover question words**

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM - Lecture on Quilombos with Question and Answer Period

**Rationale:** To prepare us for our site visit tomorrow. **(Obj. 2,3)**

**Afternoon Debriefing session. Bring Journals for reference and discussion.**

Free time to explore with CENTRO community partner. **Practice your Portuguese while you do so! (Obj. 2,3)**

Day 7

Field Trip - Full Day Visit to a Quilombo Site. Stop at fishing village along the way and visit marketplace along the banks of the river.

**Rationale:** During the more than 300 years of slave trade, millions of Africans were forced to work on Brazil’s sugar cane plantations. Throughout that time, many slaves escaped and established autonomous communities in remote areas. Today their descendants, called quilombolas, still live together. **(Obj. 2,3)**

Day 8

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM - Portuguese Lesson (**Obj. 2)**

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM - Final meeting with Mauricio for Question and Answer Period – clarify issues, double-check references, etc. lectures). You must

Attend artist’s studio and market - practice Portuguese in the marketplace (**Obj. 2, 3)**

Day 9

9:00 AM – 10:30 – Weekly Workshop – Part I (Reflect & clarify) **(Obj. 1, 3)**

11:00-1:00 PM - Weekly Workshop – Part II (Synthesize information with partner, work on Portfolio**) (Obj. 1, 2, 3, 4)**

Indigenous music workshop **(Obj. 3)**

Day 10

Breakfast Buffet

Check out of Hotel

Morning Departure for Salvador

Late Afternoon arrival in Salvador

Dinner

**Meet briefly to preview the upcoming week’s goals and activities.**

**Meet conversation partners during dinner and practice Portuguese introductions and greetings for 1 hour.**

Day 11

10:00 – 11:30 AM – Orientation Lecture on Salvador

Lunch

2:00 PM – African Heritage City Tour of Salvador, Bahia –

**Rationale:** The African roots of Brazil are traced on a city tour which combines the newer, modern section and the historical center of Salvador, the Pelourinho area, meaning “whipping post” after the pillory which stood in the main square, in front of the central slave market. This area is now a symbol of the African-Brazilian movement in Bahia and the home of many places of interest to those wishing to trace this underlying African influence. We visit the Afro-Brazilian Museum which traces the West African origins of the city and see the superb wooden sculpted panels of the orixá by Salvador’s most celebrated artist, Carybé. We visit the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary, the famous church built by slaves with meager resources over a period of almost 100 years. The Casa do Benin ( Benin House) nearby further investigates this permeating African influence. We look in aon artists and sculptors at work and let the senses do the rest as we soak up the feel of this vibrant city. The buildings may be European but the rest is African. (**Obj. 3)**

**Group presentational project: TBA – 2 hours after dinner** (**Obj. 2)**

Day 12

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM - Portuguese Lessons CEAFRO Center (**Obj. 2)**

11:00 – 12:30 AM – Lecture by Guilwaar and Melanie Adun – Blacks in the Media:

Rationale: We learn how blacks are portrayed in the Brazilian media, and how organizations are trying to abolish stereotypes. **(Obj. 2, 3)**

Lunch

2:00 PM – Field Trip – Project Axe: Bahia Street Girls Project

Rationale: To learn about socio-economic economic issues and about organizations that band together to help find healthy alternatives for girls. **(Obj. 3)**

**Meet conversation partner at dinner. 1 hour of language practice.** (**Obj. 2)**

**Evening Debriefing.**

Day 13

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM - Portuguese Lessons CEAFRO Center (**Obj. 2)**

11:00 – 11:00 AM – Lecture by Gilberto Leal: The Myth of Social Democracy in Brazil **(Obj. 3)**

Afternoon at nearby Playa.

Day 14

Breakfast Buffet

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM - Portuguese Lessons CEAFRO Center (**Obj. 2)**

# Lunch

1:00 PM – Samba Workshop and Demonstration –

**Rationale:** Samba is Brazil’s trademark. It fuels carnival and enlivens the bars and clubs that comprises the country’s spirited nightlife. It is Brazil’s national rhythm, its prime symbol of cultural nationalism. Samba and carnival represents and showcase Brazil’s African heritage and helps to define their national identity. **(Obj. 2,3)**

Day 15

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM - Portuguese Lessons CEAFRO Center (**Obj. 2)**

11:00 – 11:30 AM – Lecture: African-Brazilian Religion and Symbolism **(Obj. 2,3)**

2:00 PM – Field Trip: Visit to Ile Aiye –

**Rationale:** The Ile Aiye Cultural Association founded in 1974 by VoVo and the late Apolonio de Jesus, is the first and most important Bloco Afro of Bahia. Its’ name means “House of Life” in Yoruba and its’ objective is to preserve and expand African-Brazilian culture. During the past twenty-four years, the organization has been responsible for awakening within the black population of Bahia, the awareness of its African roots. At the center of it all is Mae Hilda, mother of VoVo, and mae de santo, priestess of Candomble. She is the spiritual leader and foremost authority on Ile Aiye. Music is the main ingredient of Ile Aiye. In 1975 Ile Aiye became the first Afro bloco Afro group, to march in a Carnival parade. Over the years they have developed a number of projects praising the African culture. One of these is the Festa da Beleza Negra, the Feast of the Black Beauty. It is a competition in which a girl is chosen to represent the Goddess of Ebano. Also, there are the Black Mother’s Day and the Music Festival. The Afro-Brazilian organization begun by Ile Aiye spawned many other similar groups in the 70’s and 80’s. They helped spread the word and rhythm of Afro-Brazil around their own country as well as throughout the world. **(Obj. 2,3)**

Day 16

Breakfast Buffet

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM - Portuguese Lessons CEAFRO Center (**Obj. 2)**

**LUNCH**

1:00-3:00PM – Project Ogum’s Toques – Meet some of the writers and interview them during this time in group, then one-to-one Question and Answer Period **(Obj. 1,2,3)**

**Rationale:** Learn about Afro-Brazilian authors and their works. During the last hour: Interpretive assignment #1: work with an author to translate and interpret a poem of theirs. **(Obj. 1,2,3)**

PM – Workshop: Capoeira

**Rationale:** Capoeira, now considered by many to be the Brazilian na­tional sport, or the Brazilian martial art, is in reality a rich artistic expression which forms part of the Afro-Brazilian cultural heritage. After being persecuted for a long time, as were other expressions of the black and popular culture of the country, the form of capoeira found at the be­ginning of this century is known as Capoeira Angola. This form combines elements of dance, fight, play. music, ritual and mimicry. The end product of the intermingling of all these elements cannot be solely identified with one of them without risking capoeria’s originality as an art.The jogo-de-capoeira (play of capoeira) takes place in a ritual activity and a circular area, both called a roda (wheel, circle, social group) pronounced ho-da. The roda is a capoeira party in which capoeirista gather and play capoeira. The players and onlookers form a circle, a roda. At the top of the circle is the bateria which is an ensemble of musicians and singers. Music is not incidental to the practice of capoeira; it is one of the most important elements in the art. It creates the atmosphere in which capoeira is most beautifully expressed. The berimbau is the most important musical instrument. With its hypnotic sound, the berimbau is considered “the soul of capoeira”. **(Obj. 2,3)**

Free afternoon to explore Pelhourinho and Mercado Modelo. Interpersonal assignment with a partner:

**Practice Portuguese using greetings, phrases, requests, and politeness strategies (Obj. 2).**

Day 17

9:00 AM – 10:30 – Weekly Workshop – Part I (Reflect & clarify) **(Obj. 1, 3)**

11:00-1:00 PM - Weekly Workshop – Part II (Synthesize information with partner, work on Portfolio**) (Obj. 1, 2, 3, 4)**

1:00- on – Conduct field research of interviews.

Day 18

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM - Portuguese Lessons - CEAFRO Center (**Obj. 2)**

11:00-12:00: Interpretive assignment #2: groups work with a different author to translate and interpret a poem of theirs. **(Obj. 1,2,3)**

2:00 PM – Field Trip – Steve Biko Institute **– Lecture on Black Consciousness in Brazil w/Q & A period**

**Rationale:** The Steve Biko Institute ( Instituto Cultural Beneficente Steve Biko) serves as an open space where the African elements of Brazilian culture are valued, a national ethnic identity is cultivated, and citizenship is promoted. The Institute, founded in 1992, is named Steve Biko in tribute to the South African leader renowned throughout the world for his struggle for a black consciousness among South African students. Education is identified as an arm against racism and as a means to achieve an equalitarian society. The Institute identified the need to reinforce the struggle against racism by means of a concrete action: to create the conditions that would make feasible the entrance of African-Brazilian youth into the Federal University. The Institute has maintained its mission to achieve a higher representation of low-income African-Brazilian youth into the universities. The Steve Biko Institute has been able to place dozens of students into the universities, as well as lend support to the initiatives of other groups interested in starting an educational cooperative in other parts of the country. **(Obj. 2,3)**

**Interpersonal assignment # 2: 1 hour of conversation with a student at Steve Biko Institute.**

7:00 PM – Field Trips: Folklore Show and Dinner –

**Rationale:** The natural refinement of the dances and dancers in the company is due to the fact that the State of Bahia is the region in Brazil where one finds these cultural manifestations in people’s everyday lives. The result is an integrated performance where dance, music and other aspects of the region are presented on one integrated show. **(Obj. 3)**

Day 19

Breakfast Buffet

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM - Portuguese Lessons CEAFRO Center (**Obj. 2)**

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM - Lecture on Affirmative Action Movement in Brazil – w/ Question and Answer Period

Lectures) – talk with students who have been positively affected by this**. (Obj.2,3,5)**

2:00 PM – Lunch

Evening Free - Tuesday night in the historic Pelourinho district is a night of celebration. It’s called benção ( or blessing), from an origin in the Igreja do Santo Antônio’s custom of giving away bread to the poor on Tuesday evenings. Bahia has a way of turning religious events into parties and that‘s exactly what happens here; lots of people, lots of music, and lots of dancing. Benção biggest parties during any given month are the first and last of that month

Day 20

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM - Portuguese Lessons CEAFRO Center (**Obj. 2)**

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM – Lecture TBA.

2:00 PM – Workshop - Indigenous Musical Instruments of Brazil.

**Rationale:** The percussion workshop taught by master Giba Conceição proposes a vision about four aspects of Afro-Brazilian percussion: the Candomblé drumming, popular percussion (sambas from Bahia, Rio etc), the capoeira rhythms and the blocos afro-rhythms. The teaching is based on Giba´s experience in Salvador as well as his research on African rhythms in Africa and the Diaspora.

Lectures)

Day 21

Breakfast Buffet

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM - Portuguese Lessons CEAFRO Center (**Obj. 2)**

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM – Lunch

2:00 PM – Field Trip – Visit to Ilê Axé Opô Afonjá –

**Rationale:** We visit a traditional candomblé terrio or house of worship, Ilê Axé Opô Afonjá, established at the turn of the century, which has continued to maintain the religious and social values of African daily life. Mother Mae Stella of Oxóssi, one of the most highly respected priests of Brazil, is the Ialorixá of Ilê Axé Opô Afonjá. Our visit will focus on the religious and social traditions of the temple. We also visit the primary school in the grounds of the terriro whose curriculum includes Yorubá language studies, the study of the spiritual and medicinal properties of sacred plants, as well as normal academic studies. **(Obj. 2, 3)**

**Evening debriefing.**

Day 22

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM - Portuguese Lessons CEAFRO Center (**Obj. 2)**

11:00-12:00 – Project Ogum’s Toques –Interpretive assignment #3: groups work with a new author to translate and interpret a poem of theirs and report on it. **(Obj. 1,2,3)**

PM - Work on your curriculum project or conduct field research of scheduled interview.

Day 23-26

8:00 AM – Field Trip – Cachoeira and the Recuncavo Region:

**Rationale:** Departure for two day visit to the Recuncavo including the visit to MST (Movement of Rural Landless Workers) settlement; Cachoeira and meeting with the sisterhood of Boa Morte and Maragogipinho, ceramic village and discussion with the workers. Today we travel to the historical city of Cachoeira, home of the Boa Morte. We leave the city behind and drive through the oldest farmland in Brazil. This is the land of sugar-cane and tobacco plantations, peaceful colonial towns and busy country markets. We lunch in Cachoeira, a charming colonial town in a beautiful setting on the banks of the Paraguassu River and later take a walking tour of the town with its many wood sculptors, bustling market and visit the Sisterhood of the Boa Morte. The history of the Irmandade da Boa Morte (Sisterhood of the Good Death), a religious confraternity devoted to the Assumption of the Virgin, is part of the history of mass importation of blacks from the African coast to the cane-growing Reconcavo region of Bahia. Iberian adventurers built beautiful towns in this area, one of them being Cachoeira, which was the second most important economic center in Bahia for three centuries. In a patriarchal society marked by racial and ethnic differences, the confraternity is made up exclusively of black women, which gives this Afro-Catholic manifestation - as some consider it – a significant role in the annals of African Diaspora history. Besides the gender and race of the confraternity’s members, their status as former slaves and descendants of slaves is an important social characteristic without which it would be difficult to understand many aspects of the confraternity’s religious commitments. The former slaves have demonstrated enormous adroitness in worshipping in the religion of those in power without letting go of their ancestral beliefs, as well as in the ways they defend the interests of their followers and represent them socially and politically. **(Obj. 2,3)**

Day 27

Afternoon Arrival in Salvador

**Dinner & Debriefing**

Day 28

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM - Portuguese Lessons CEAFRO Center (**Obj. 2)**

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM –Thank you presentations to our hosts and instructors**. Presentational assignment: Students deliver cards written in Portuguese and thank you speeches**.

Free Day - The remainder of the day is yours to spend as you wish, having spiritual readings, visiting artist studios, museums and galleries or the over 300 historic churches that add distinctive character to the landscape and architecture of Bahia; or just sunning at the beach or hotel pool.

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Day 29

9:00 AM – 10:30 – Weekly Workshop – Part I (Reflect & clarify) **(Obj. 1, 3)**

11:00-1:00 PM - Weekly Workshop – Part II (Synthesize information with partner, work on Portfolio**) (Obj. 1, 2, 3, 4)**

Field Trip - 7:00 PM –Dinner and Folklore Show

**Rationale:** The natural refinement of the dances and dancers in the company is due to the fact that the State of Bahia is the region in Brazil where one finds these cultural manifestations in people’s everyday lives. The result is an integrated performance where dance, music and other aspects of the region are presented on one integrated show. **(Obj. 3)**

Day 30

Breakfast Buffet

Check out of hotel

Depart for airport and return to USA

Day 31

Arrive in USA