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Brazilian Popular Music or What do the 60s and 70s Mean to Me?

Required text:

Dunn, Christopher. *Brutality Garden: Tropicália and the Emergence of a Brazilian Popular Culture*. Chapel Hill: U. of North Carolina P., 2001.

Course Objectives: Throughout the semester we will learn how a profoundly innovative and yet little-known cultural movement has influenced our own popular culture in the United States. As David Byrne notes:

From a northern perspective, this book is a window opening an alternative version of our own past. The creativity, danger, humor, politics and weirdness mirror and match our own 60s and 70s, but it is all just a little different. The issues this movement dealt with – race, identity, high vs. low culture, North vs. South – are all issues we ourselves deal with everyday. Here are clues to the puzzle that is our own identity – clues picked up in an alternative universe and brought back decoded.

Classroom activities: Each week we will be discussing a portion of the textbook, listening to selected songs and viewing relevant artwork. Each student will be assigned portions of the text in order to lead the discussions. All students will be required to do the weekly readings before coming to class. Occasional handouts movies and outside activities may be required. All students will keep a personal journal that will document your own reactions to the materials presented, relationships you might think about in terms of music and your own lives, outside research if you do any, etc. All journals will be collected once a month.

Grading: Grades will be determined by classroom participation, journals and final presentations.

Weekly Syllabus

January 14. Introduction: “The Girl from Ipanema.” “Interview with Chris Dunn”

January 21. *Brutality Garden* “Introduction:” 1-11, Essay by Caetano Veloso

January 28. **Journal due,** Movie: *Four Days in September*

February 4 Movie: *Four Days in September*

February 11 Chpt. 1: 12-26

February 18 Chpt. 1: 26-36

February 25 **Journal due.** Chpt. 2: 37-55

March 3 Chpt. 2: 55-72

March 17 Chpt. 3: 73-101

March 24 Chpt. 3: 101-121

March 31 Chpt 4: 122-142

April 7 **Journal due.** Chpt. 4: 142-160

April 14 Chpt. 5

April 21 Chpt 6

April 28 **Journal due,** Presentations.