



Global Brazil: Economics & Culture from Bahia to Rio

J-term 2027

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Brazil's dynamic, fast-growing economy is an excellent setting to examine themes of economic development, particularly the intersection of culture and the economy. Salvador da Bahia, on Brazil's northeast coast, is one of the birthplaces of Brazilian culture, known for its cuisine, music, and architecture. Rio de Janeiro is one of the world's most iconic cities, known for its natural biodiversity, samba, Carnaval, and world-famous beaches.

Course: "Brazil: Economics and Culture"

Can be taken as Economics 320, International Studies 390, or Latin American Studies 390

Prerequisites: ECO 201 and 202 *or permission of the instructor* – ask us!

Course themes include: globalization, BRICS, international trade, economics of tourism, inequality, entrepreneurship, history and culture of Brazil, political economy, sustainability, and biodiversity. Some lectures, readings, and projects, but also engaging in lectures and activities.

Details

Bahia: first two nights in hotel, then homestays with Brazilian families. There will be two Miami students per family, and the family will provide all meals, wifi, access to laundry, etc. The homes are in clusters, so you'll be close to other Miami students. These are experienced host families although they might not speak a lot of English! They often host non-Portuguese speakers. An Ohio State professor who's led a similar trip here said, "the homestays are **the best** part of the trip – the students have a Brazilian mom who takes care of them and looks out for them." In Rio, we'll stay in a hotel.

Activities and Day Trips in Salvador da Bahia (tentative):

Afro-Brazilian dance workshop, tour of Salvador and historic tour of Pelourinho, Candomblé temple visit, percussion workshop, capoeira workshop, graffiti and street art tour, OLODUM music group, visiting a Carnaval design artist, day trip to Cachoeira (quilombo, visiting a farm), day trip to Arembépe (beach and art organization), day trip to Itaparica Island, celebrating the local festival Festa da Lavagem do Bonfim.

Activities and Day Trips in Rio de Janeiro (tentative):

Tour including iconic sites like Christ the Redeemer and Sugar Loaf, Copacabana and Ipanema beaches, a neighborhood tour and visit to a community organization, Pedra do Sal, and a samba school during preparations for Carnaval.

Finances

Details are on the Global Initiatives [program site](#). Scholarships are available! Many require demonstrated financial need (must have FAFSA on file). Apply early!

Note that most meals are included on this trip, so there will be fewer out of pocket expenses.

Questions? Contact the faculty directors: jminier@miamioh.edu or albarrijl@miamioh.edu

[More information](#)

[Global Initiatives program site](#)

for more information and to apply



Some Questions & Answers from April 2026 Information Session

How much free time will there be on the program?

Most days, including weekend days, will have scheduled activities that you're expected to participate in. There will be some unstructured time built in, but this will typically take the form of a free morning or afternoon. You will not have free weekends to travel on this program.

I'm planning to study abroad in the fall; will that be a problem for this?

Not at all! (And lucky you!) We will have a few pre-departure meetings but if you're not on campus we'd be glad to work with you.

Do you have any suggestions on learning Portuguese before the trip?

[The language of instruction for all coursework is English.]

If it fits in your schedule, there is an Immersive Portuguese course offered at Miami in fall 2026, although this is not required. Listening to Brazilian music and watching Brazilian movies can help you learn the sound of Brazilian Portuguese. Duolingo and other apps can also help reinforce some basic phrases. We'll cover some key phrases during the pre-departure meetings and orientation in Brazil.

Portuguese is different in Brazil and Portugal, so if you have the option, choose Brazilian Portuguese.

Can you tell me more about scholarships?

In the application, there is a question about whether you want to be considered for Global Initiatives scholarships. The deadline to be considered for Global Initiatives scholarships for winter is September 15, and they will notify you by October 1.

Selecting this on the application will also allow you to be considered for Economics departmental scholarships if you are an Economics major (CAS Economics, FSB Business Economics, or Quantitative Economics).

There are also [Miami Family Fund grants](#) that can be used for study abroad.

The [Garrote Scholarship](#) administered by the Global & Intercultural Studies department requires a separate application. Awards are made on a rolling basis.

The Department of Global & Intercultural Studies may have additional scholarships for study abroad.

If you are a Pell Grant recipient or the child dependent of an active duty service member, you are eligible to apply for the federal [Gilman Scholarship](#) and Gilman-McCain scholarship.

More information on the Global Initiatives "[Finances and Scholarships](#)" page