

May in the Marvelous City Spring Session Rio 2018



Rio aerial view

Professors Kimberly Marshall (Anthropology) and Christopher Bingham (Film and Media Studies) will lead this new 21-day program in Brazil. Students will take one course on the anthropology of religion and another on participatory media. OU's Center in Rio will host this program, helping students make the most of their visit to Rio de Janeiro – known as “O Cidade Maravilhoso” (The Marvelous City).

Our trip starts at the spectacular Iguazu Falls, on the border of Brazil and Argentina. We then move to our home-base of Rio, where we will spend nearly two weeks. In the final days of the program, students will visit the mountain town of Campos do Jordao and finish the course in the eco-destination island of Ilha Grande.

May in the Marvelous City combines instruction with excursions and guest lecturers that complement course content. In Dr. Marshall's class, Brazil's religious diversity will come alive through conversations with practitioners and visits to sites like the Buddhist Temple in Iguazu Falls, Rio's beautiful Old Synagogue, and the Basilica Aparecida – the second largest cathedral in the world. In Dr. Bingham's class, students will learn to apply critical theory to web-based travelogues, tourist video, and podcasts. Since production is a form of critique, students will

create their own digitally-published travelogues as they explore Brazil.

In addition to class meetings, the group will visit the important landmarks and museums of Rio, including the *Cristo* statue, Sugar Loaf, the Santa Teresa arts district and Selaron Steps, and the Botanical Gardens, as well as the Museum of Tomorrow and the Museum of Art. Of course, no visit to Rio would be complete without attending a soccer game at the Olympic Maracana stadium.

Students will live in OU approved hostels and hotels at all locations, sharing rooms with others of the same gender. Two meals a day are included in the program, with students paying for the remaining meals at various approved local restaurants.

Participants need to check with a health care professional about recommended vaccinations. It is each student's responsibility to do this well in advance of the departure date. Goddard Health Center on campus can provide this service. Although appointments are necessary and there is a cost for each vaccination, students usually are not charged for this visit.

Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Students should meet with Karen Elmore and attend a Study Abroad 101 session as soon as possible. Both are required components of the application.



Iguazu Falls