This course will introduce students to the literature of Brazil, Latin America’s largest country and a rising economic and political power. Through our reading of Brazilian novels and short stories from the early 20th century up to the present day, and our viewing of two important Brazilian films, we will trace the country’s historical evolution, its lingering problems, and its early 21st century “emergence” onto the world stage. Major themes to be discussed include: the legacy of Brazil’s colonial past and slavery; Brazilian national myths, heroes, and stereotypes; race and class relations; the representation of nature; violence and marginality. **Class discussions and all readings will be in English. No knowledge of Portuguese required.** Portuguese-speaking students should inform the professor at the beginning of the quarter.