

Portuguese Podcast Script

Alex:

Hello and welcome back to the Podcast Programs from the Dept. of World Languages and Cultures at Iowa State University. I hope you all have happy holidays, so kick back and relax a little more while I treat you to an entertaining show about the Portuguese program. When you think of the Portuguese language, do you think of just Portugal? Or do you think of Brazil, Cape Verde, Macau, or any of the other Portuguese-speaking countries? Most often we associate Portuguese with Portugal but there are over 200 million native speakers throughout the world, Portuguese is the first official language of 5 countries! It's also the 5th most widely spoken language in the world. Although Brazilians speak Portuguese, it differs from peninsular Portuguese. Brazilians and Portuguese can easily converse; however, Brazilians incorporate Indian and African linguistic influences into their form of Portuguese.

I'm sure you can recognize the green and yellow Brazilian flag, but do you know what the colors symbolize? The green symbolizes the lush green grasses and forests of Brazil, and the yellow/gold color symbolizes gold, which can be found in various parts of the country.

If you have the chance to visit Brazil or Portugal during the spring, be sure to join in the Carnival celebrations! Carnival's original purpose was to celebrate spring and since the Middle Ages the 3-day celebration has evolved into a national party where people dress up, dance, and participate in parades.

While Americans usually get down to business in the workplace, Brazilians like to make casual conversation before discussing business matters—it's more friendly and less pressing to get to know your colleagues and co-workers rather than going straight to work matters.

The Department of World Languages and Cultures at Iowa State University offers a minor in Portuguese, but don't be fooled because the curriculum is extensive

and exciting! Not only will you be taking grammatical, composition and conversation courses, but you learn a lot about the different countries and cultures in the civilizations and cultures special courses. There are also some Portuguese courses offered in English that highlight the cultures, politics, film or literature of the many Portuguese-speaking nations. We decided to interview some students on their take on the Portuguese program.

Elena:

My name is Elena Salceda and I'm a third year in applied linguistics. I'm originally from Honduras and I've always kind of had an interest in Portuguese because Spanish is my native language and I've always felt like I should be able to understand Portuguese, but I couldn't. So I've always been curious to see what it actually was. I'm an applied linguistics major so I do a lot with language, not necessarily foreign languages, but I'm taking Portuguese now and as I said Spanish is my native language and I've also taken French.

Mehmet:

How do you plan to use your background in the Portuguese language and culture in your future?

Elena:

For me, learning another language is just another reference point, expanding my understanding of how language works. It's been really helpful so I'm sure in the future I'll continue to work things out that way.

Mehmet:

Do you have any recommendations for students who want to learn a new language, perhaps even Portuguese?

Elena:

If you do pick up a new language, just keep at it, don't get too frustrated, even for us coming from Spanish it seems like we should know, but we don't, so just keep trucking through.

Bruno:

My name is Bruno Orticelli, I'm a freshman in civil engineering. I'm originally from Brazil but I moved

here when I was eight to Pella Iowa. I would say definitely learn a new language because the job market is really looking for people who are bilingual. Also if you pick up a new language, make sure you go into it with a good attitude and be ready to study because it's not like any other course where you can just wing it. You have to study everyday for at least 30 minutes so you can get it into your head.

Alex:

Want to earn 3 credits while touring Brazil for 2 weeks? This summer a Study Tour of Brazil will be offered for students interested in Brazil or the Portuguese language. The trip is 2 weeks long and will be packed with exciting excursions, cultural activities and insightful lectures focusing on many aspects of Brazil, such as: history, environment, religion, arts, race and ethnicity, social issues (land reform), business and politics. A half a semester before the trip students will have the option to take a language short course where they will learn useful phrases and basic conversation skills to prepare them for their visit to Brazil.

Rachel:

My name is Rachel Haywood-Ferreira, I'm an assistant professor of Spanish and Portuguese at Iowa State and I coordinate the Portuguese program. I'm a Latin-Americanist, my area of specialty is 19th - 21st century literature and cultural studies. I also teach in the language program, I guess my current project is science fiction in Brazil, Argentina and Mexico.

Woman:

What initially made you interested in studying languages?

Rachel:

Well, I always had fun speaking other languages. I should say fun first because that's sort of what keeps you going and things like that as well. Little Spanish classes when I went to kindergarten in Texas, I guess, and listening to music was a big influence for me too. Also a big desire to travel and see other countries as much as possible from the inside rather than from the outside looking in as so many tourists

experiences often are. I was a foreign exchange student through AFS in Argentina in high school. I studied abroad in Spain in college. In the summers of college I was a waitress in a place where a lot of people I was working with were Mexican and I was one of the only people who were speaking both languages and that was also important to me and then I lived in Portugal for four years. I took subsequent research trips to Latin America as well.

Woman:

Do you have any advice for students studying abroad?

Rachel:

Stay as long as possible. You may not easily find time or money for such a unique and life changing experience again and the longer you stay then more you'll integrate into the society of that country and the more personal connections you'll make.

Woman:

So why learn Portuguese and what makes it unique?

Rachel:

Portuguese is known in the U.S. as a less commonly taught language but I always emphasize that it's not a less commonly spoken language. It is the third most widely spoken Western language with only English and Spanish ahead of it and it's approximately sixth or seventh in terms of world languages after Mandarin Chinese and some other Eastern languages as well. It is the official language of countries on four continents: Portugal, Brazil, Goa, Mozambique, East Timor, Cape Verde, Guine-Bissau, São Tomé, and Príncipe. And there's also significant Portuguese speaking population in North America, primarily on the coast and in Canada. It's a romance language with many similarities to other languages such as Spanish, French, and Italian. In fact we offer two new courses at Iowa State in first year Portuguese: 111 and 112x, which is a first year course which is specifically designed for those students with some background in another language because the transferal is quite great. Students who want access to virtually all Latin America in terms of travel, in terms of culture, research, business, agriculture and other areas, if they want access to all of these opportunities they

really need Portuguese to open the doors to Brazil, which is Latin Americas largest economy and largest country. Also people who are interested in working with the entire Iberian Peninsula need to include Portugal and Spain, and those who want to work in so many different areas of the world where Portuguese is spoken.

Alex:

If you like watching movies and wouldn't mind earning 3 credits check out LAS 250, a course offered this spring which will feature Russian, Chinese, and Brazilian film. Analysis of socio-political and cultural transitions, in addition to how each country's current situations come into play with the themes, will be discussed for each film. The course will be taught by 3 professors and it will be a great chance to learn about Russia, China and Brazil and their histories and current events.

ISU sponsors a vibrant student club which can give you a lot of opportunities to meet Portuguese speakers and to participate in cultural activities. Vladimir Da Costa is the president of the Brazilian-Portuguese association.

Vladimir:

Hello, my name is Vladimir Da Costa. I'm from Brazil, north east Brazil. We don't have activities all the time because our board is basically grad students so many people are busy with their own research and we don't have a lot of time free to organize activities as do undergrad clubs. Our main activities are Brazilian night, we hold this in October in the Memorial Union great hall, and we had around 200 people. It is one of our biggest activities; we hold two big activities which are the Brazilian night in October, and the Brazilian Carnival which is the second biggest, usually in February or March. Our main goal is to show the Iowa State community and the Ames community a little bit of our culture. On the Brazilian night we always give a power point presentation about Brazil, we talk about Brazil, we show videos, we bring people singing Brazilian songs, and we invite a group that does Brazilian martial arts which is a mix of music, dancing and martial arts. It's very beautiful, everybody gets very excited, this

presentation is the top of the night, it's beautiful. And then we cook some of our typical food, it's a lot but we need to pick one. At the end of the spring, in the beginning of summer we do two barbeques.

Woman:

Who do you encourage to join, obviously people who speak Portuguese, but I was going to ask if you speak Portuguese.

Vladimir:

No, no, we only speak English. We have Americans who join our association, we have Brazilians, people from Portugal too, we have Africans, we have Uruguayans, and we have Paraguayans. We have people from Colombia. Anybody that would like to join our association, anybody that would like to have some fun and meet new people, know a little bit about our culture, we are very friendly people with a warm heart. Everybody is more than welcome, just send an email, the first step is to send an email to bpa and we will add you to the list and you will be informed about all the activities that we have.

Alex:

This project is an initiative of the ISU Foreign Language Learning Resource Center, and was funded in part by a recruitment and retention grant the Professional and Scientific Council, and the ISU Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. Lori Lynch is our producer, Daniel Francis is our sound editor, Mehmet Sahin is our interviewer and advisor, Keith Swanson is our technical guru, Julio Rodriguez is our advisor, and my self, Alex Ely, am your announcer. The music for this show is under Creative Commons license. For details, please visit our website, www.language.iastate.edu/podcast.