Portuguese

Acing Your Language Class
Tips & Best Practices

“Seja a mudança que você quer ver no mundo”
“Be the change you want to see in the world”

Student Spotlight

Eating Authentically in Boston
Restaurant recommendations and recipes to try

Language of the Month Film Discussion

Add to Your Playlist and Watchlist
Songs and Movies

Literature and Authors
The ERC offers Language Link for Portuguese! Language Link hosts several informal, half-hour discussions each week. Sessions are led by a native speaker and are offered at three different levels: beginner, intermediate, and advanced.
Watch this video to learn about the BU Portuguese Program and how it can enhance your education at BU.

For more information on the Portuguese program, contact Dr. Célia Bianconi, Coordinator of the Portuguese Language Program and Master Lecturer in Portuguese via email.
Meet our Portuguese Language Link Leader, Lara. She is currently a junior in CAS studying political science. Keep reading to get Lara's insight on learning a new language!
1. Why do you think that understanding the culture of a language is so important?
It’s very important to appreciate the culture of a language because it is one of the most impactful methods of communication within communities. Learning a new language doesn’t just open doors to academic opportunities but also to new communities of people and experiences. That is the beauty of learning a new language—expanding your worldview and ability to connect with others.

2. What do you enjoy most about Language Link and being a Language Link leader?
I love helping students navigate Portuguese in a way that is not intimidating and isn’t accompanied by the pressures of a grade. As much as the students learn from me, I have the privilege to learn from their experiences as well! I love meeting new students who are not only open to learning about my first language but genuinely care about learning the culture behind it. It is an honor to shed light on features within the Lusophone world that are often times hidden—for example, the fact that Brazil and Portugal aren’t the only countries in the world that speak Portuguese. Other countries, including Angola and Mozambique, speak Portuguese as well!
3. What advice do you have for people learning Portuguese or a new language in general?
I think it's important to have confidence and not be too hard on yourself. Learning a new language is not easy, and it's an incredible journey to be on. You should always give yourself credit and be proud of the effort you put toward learning a new language. Doing simple things such as listening to music in the language or doing a yoga/workout session in the language you are learning (perhaps with subtitles) can really help you grow! Being creative in the ways that you are learning a new language is very crucial to ensure that you maintain an interest and are happy while you're doing it!

4. What's your favorite aspect of Portuguese culture?
My favorite aspect of Portuguese culture is the amazing people I have been able to meet because of my connection with the Portuguese language! While I am able to maintain amazing relationships with my family members who are in Brazil and speak only Portuguese, I am also grateful to connect with students at BU who share this language! For example, I have been a member of BU’s Global House for the past two years, and I have made wonderful friends who will be a part of my life even after college!
The Carnival in Torres Vedras, a city just north of Lisbon, is one of many local Carnivals celebrated in Portugal. What makes this city's Carnaval extra special is its sheer size and bustling vibe. It includes many traditional aspects of a carnival, as well as a few unique components. Celebrations in Torres Vedras include allegorical floats, groups of masked revelers, figures wearing large carved masks, and of course, drums and bagpipes. There is also a preview of the carnival each August, which involves four days of festivities, floats, and lively Zés Pereiras drumming groups.
Carnaval

*Carnaval* is one of the biggest celebrations in Brazil, with Rio de Janeiro hosting the largest *Carnaval* celebration in the world. *Carnaval* can take place in February or early March, depending on the year.

Passion Play

Each year, Brejo da Madre puts on the world's largest *Passion Play* the week before Easter. The venue is built to look like a giant outdoor replica of Jerusalem, so the play feels more like an interactive production than a theater performance.

Festival Amazonas de Ópera

The *Festival Amazonas de Ópera* (Amazonas Opera Festival) is an annual festival of opera presented in the Teatro Amazonas in Manaus, Brazil. The Amazonas Philharmonic is the official orchestra of the Festival, which is held every year from March until May.
RESTAURANTS

1. CASA PORTUGAL
Located in Cambridge, MA, this authentic, family owned restaurant has been serving homemade, traditional Portuguese food since 1976.

2. TERRA BRASILIS RESTAURANT
Located in Framingham, MA, this Brazilian buffet offers a wide variety of grilled meats and other authentic Brazilian dishes.

3. FOGO DE CHÃO BRAZILIAN STEAKHOUSE
Located in Boston, MA, this all-you-can-eat steakhouse offers delicious, traditional Brazilian dishes.
Pizza à Portuguesa

What is Pizza à Portuguesa?

Although the name of this dish directly translates to "Portuguese Pizza", it actually originated in São Pao, Brazil. Brazilian pizzas tend to have a wide variety of toppings. Pizza à Portuguesa includes shredded mozzarella, ham, onions, black olives, and hard boiled eggs. Click here for the recipe!

Cocada

According to the Candomblé religion in Brazil, this dessert is considered comida dos orixás (food of the gods). Cocadas are simple and easy to make, requiring only five steps with just three ingredients! Click here for the recipe, which makes 10 delicious cocadas!

You can also make Cocada preta (black cocada) by using brown sugar and slightly burnt coconut.
Watchlist films

**Pelé**
Against the backdrop of a turbulent era in Brazil, this documentary captures Pelé's story and how he changed the history of soccer.

**Confessions of an Invisible Girl**
When the clever but socially awkward Tetê joins a new school, she'll do anything to fit in. However, the queen bee among her classmates has other ideas.

**Double Dad**
While her mother is abroad, an 18-year-old woman who has lived in a hippie commune all her life sneaks out into the real world to find her biological father.
Gloría
A small town in Portugal becomes engulfed in a web of political intrigue when a young engineer is recruited as a KGB spy.

Good Morning, Veronica
After witnessing a suicide, a police clerk decides to investigate two cases on her own, both involving abused women.

3%
Set in the distant future, people fight to leave an impoverished island by taking tests. Only 3% can succeed.

Click on each number to watch now
Watch *Letters to Angola*, available through BU Libraries, then join the ERC, CineMAfriq, and BU Libraries for a discussion with special guest, Gana Ndiaye, Lecturer in Sociocultural Anthropology.

Event is open to current BU students, faculty, and staff.

**Thursday, March 24 @ 4:00PM ET | Register via Zoom**

*Letters to Angola* *(Cartas Para Angola)*

Longtime friends and strangers share intertwining stories of migration, nostalgia, war, and exile from opposite sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

This film highlights seven pairs of voices between Brazil, Angola, and Portugal where people share many similarities due to their shared colonial past and common language. The protagonists' search for identity and memory binds their life stories together while shedding light on their common history.
Check out BU Libraries' Resource Guide for Portuguese Language and Literature!
Fado

Fado music is an expressive and emotional form of Portuguese singing. The melancholic tone of Fado singing is best described by the Portuguese word saudade, meaning “longing.” One of the most famous Fado singers is Amália Rodrigues, pictured on the left.

Soraia Ramos

Soraia was born in Portugal and lived there until she was 13 years old. In 2009, Soraia won fourth place in the Swiss "Diaspora Voices" competition.

Fun Fact

“Amar do Zero" (ft. Pedro Gonçalves)” by Lookalike won the 2021 People’s Choice in the International Portuguese Music Awards
The Portuguese Empire was Europe’s first colonial empire. As a result, Portuguese is an official language in 9 countries across Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America. Portuguese has around 215 million native speakers!

Did You Know?

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Portuguese is the most widely spoken language in South America and the second most spoken language in Latin America.

Want to practice your Portuguese? Try this crossword puzzle to strengthen your vocabulary while having fun!