

Portuguese Literary & Cultural Studies

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH
CENTER FOR PORTUGUESE STUDIES AND CULTURE

Founded in 1996 by a group of faculty from four different colleges, the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture is a multidisciplinary international studies and outreach unit dedicated to the study of the language, literatures and cultures of the Portuguese-speaking world. The Center is designed to be the liaison between the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and other institutions involved in Portuguese studies both in the United States and abroad. The Center aims to develop pedagogical materials to aid in teaching and learning the Portuguese language and cultures at all levels of education, and also supports the development and dissemination of knowledge regarding the Portuguese-speaking communities in the United States. The Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture promotes outreach efforts in areas such as, but not limited to, the arts, education, economic development, health and politics related to the Portuguese-speaking communities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and throughout the United States.

The Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture includes the Summer Program in Portuguese, which was founded in 1994. This program has become the largest of its kind in the United States, with over 100 students from 10 different states in 2002. The Center also launched the Summer Program in Portuguese for Children in 2000. In the same year, the Center led the effort to create a separate Department of Portuguese. In fall 2002 the Department had 325 students and 46 majors, both numbers doubling those of 1999. And in fall 2001, the Center led the way to the creation of the Hélio and Amélia Pedrosa/Luso-American Foundation Endowed Chair in Portuguese Studies. Prof. Donald Warrin of the University of California, Berkeley, a renowned expert on Portuguese-American Literature and History, taught a course on the Portuguese and Cape Verdeans in Local History. Prof. Warrin is the first Visiting Distinguished Professor to occupy the Chair. He has also agreed to publish a book-length manuscript on the Portuguese and Cape Verdeans in American whaling in the Portuguese in the Americas Series, in 2004.

In 1998, the Center launched the semiannual scholarly journal, *Portuguese Literary & Cultural Studies (PLCS)*, which has published essays by such eminent scholars as Harold Bloom, Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht, Luiz Costa Lima, and Helen Vendler. *PLCS* has been very positively reviewed in the *Times Literary Supplement* of London (November 8, 2002). Recently the Center launched three new publications: the Portuguese in the Americas Series (the first volume, *Portuguese-Americans and Contemporary Civic Culture in Massachusetts* was published in January 2003); the Adamastor Book Series (the first volume, *Chaos and Splendor and Other Essays* by Eduardo Lourenço, Portugal's most celebrated cultural critic, was published in January 2003); and the Portuguese Language Textbook Series, whose inau-

gural volume is precisely this work.

The Center also sponsors and organizes colloquia, concerts, art exhibitions, dance performances and theatrical productions, in addition to visits by distinguished authors and critics. With the Center's support, José Saramago, the 1998 Nobel Laureate for Literature, was awarded an honorary degree in 1999 and returned to UMD in 2002 to be the keynote speaker in a similar ceremony for Harold Bloom, America's premier man of letters. In the same month of April 2002, the Center co-organized and co-sponsored events with José Saramago at the prestigious New York Public Library Bartos Forum (Prof. Bloom presented Saramago) and the John F. Kennedy Library, the latter in partnership with the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities. In fall 2002 the Center hosted Dr. José Ramos-Horta, Foreign Minister of East Timor and the 1996 Nobel Laureate for Peace. In April 2001, the Center organized a colloquium and launching of an issue of *Portuguese Literary & Cultural Studies*, subtitled "Brazil 2001: A Revisionary History of Brazilian Literature and Culture" at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC., and will do the same for volume 8 ("Cape Verde: Language, Literature & Music") and 10 ("Reevaluating Mozambique") on February 4, 2004.

Future projects include the publication of studies on the Portuguese-American communities and the further development of the Portuguese-American Archives, located in the University Library Special Collections. In addition, the Department of Portuguese is currently developing a Graduate Program in Portuguese Studies to be launched in fall 2004. Finally, the Center and Department are working together to develop a scholarship program to promote the study of Portuguese at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The varied activities of the Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture have been made possible by the commitment and generosity of numerous supporters. A gift from Frank B. Sousa, Chairman of the UMD Foundation Board of Directors, enabled the launching of the summer program, and subsequent major grants from the Luso-American Foundation of Lisbon and the Government of Portugal contributed significantly to the development of the Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture and the Department of Portuguese. Other grants from the Camões Institute and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation have supported the Summer Program in Portuguese and the organization of major international conferences. Portuguese studies at UMass Dartmouth have also benefited from the generous financial support of Anthony Andrade, Dennis Rezendes, the Citizens Financial Group, and the Portuguese-American legislative delegation led by State Representative Robert Correia. The Hélio and Amélia Pedroso/Luso-American Foundation Endowed Chair in Portuguese Studies was made possible by the generous support of Luis Pedroso, the Luso-American Foundation, Anthony Andrade, Maria Dulce Furman, Frank B. Sousa and Manuel Fernando Neto.

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