

## **CITY OF GOD: URBAN LITERATURE IN BRAZIL**

**July 23 (9 am-12 pm)**

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This one day seminar will introduce students to one of the most iconic works of literature from Brazil at turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The film *City of God* is known throughout the world, but few realize that the film is based on Paulo Lins' novel of the same title. Published in 1997, the novel *City of God* marked a watershed moment in contemporary Brazilian literature and culture as the literary text introduced the world to the experiences of residents living in Rio de Janeiro's *favelas*, or shantytowns.

The instructor will provide a general overview of the novel, and students will have the opportunity to examine excerpts from the book. Our discussion of the novel will allow students to understand the role of contemporary urban literature in providing a critical lens of Brazilian society as well as giving visibility to marginalized communities frequently overlooked or portrayed in problematic ways in canonical Brazilian literature. Examining the novel will also give students a deeper understanding of how *favelas* developed in Rio de Janeiro during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.