17.55, Introduction to Latin American Studies, Fall 2006 Prof. Chappell Lawson

Session 5: Race

- History of slave trade and slavery
- Brazilian claims to be a "racial democracy"
 - o Pretense
 - o Practice
- Different conceptions of race in the United States and Brazil
 - o Analogue vs. digital
- The ways in which race and ethnicity actually matter
 - o Marriage patterns (Brazil)
 - o SES
 - o Access to government services
 - o Social standing (expressions in Brazil, Melissa's stories from Brazil)
- Primordialism vs. constructivism (always socially constructed)
- Genotype vs. phenotype
- Hard to organize around race?