Politics, Economy, and Society of Contemporary Brazil

GOV 337M 38835, LAS 337M 40390
Spring 2013
Tues/Thurs 9:30 – 11:00
Mezes 2.124

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This course will examine the major economic, political, and sociological developments of Brazil in the 20th and 21st centuries. It will concentrate on the broad themes of state-led industrialization and economic management; the alternation of authoritarian politics and democratic government; and the multiple problems brought on by high levels of socio-economic inequality. In addition to the many challenges that Brazil faces, the course will also examine the many opportunities the country has.

The political topics to be covered include the institutions that allow elites to retain power and privilege. Economic topics include recent moves toward increased globalization and the tapping of Amazonian resources. Sociological subjects include the high rates of crime and related problems that have arisen from the pursuit of a development model that has led to extreme concentrations of wealth and record levels of income inequality.

The course assumes no prior knowledge or prerequisites.

Two books are required and are available for purchase at the University bookstore. All other readings are available on Blackboard under Course Documents.

Required Items for Purchase

- Skidmore, Thomas E. 2009. *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- Bailey, Stanley. 2009. *Legacies of Race: Identities, Attitudes, and Politics in Brazil*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Requirements and Grading:

Reading is due by the Tuesday session of each week. It is imperative that students do the readings, reflect upon them, and come to class prepared to discuss them. Class participation, which goes beyond simple attendance, will be a significant factor in the final grade. There will be one quiz, two in-class examinations, an essay about a film, and a final take-home essay that reflects upon the course as a whole. Please bring a blue book to both exams. The instructions for the film essay are on Blackboard. I will hand out questions and instructions for the final essay well in advance of its due date.

Assignment:	*Grade Distribution*	*Due Date*
Class participation	10 percent	
Quiz	10 percent	January 31
First in-class examination	20 percent	February 28
Second in-class examination	20 percent	April 4
Essay on film	10 percent	April 18
Final take home essay	30 percent	May 2

Grading: This course *will* use plus/minus grades.

Your final grade will be calculated as follows: we will sum all the points you received in the class and convert them into letter grades based on the following scale:

93-100 = A
90-92 = A-
87-89 = B+
83-86 = B
80-82 = B-
77-79 = C+
73-76 = C
70-72 = C-
67-69 = D+
63-66 = D
60-62 = D-
Below 60 = F

Without exception, we will round up scores of 0.5 and higher and round down scores of less than 0.5. Students who wish to contest a grade must do so in writing within two weeks of the day on which the assignment was handed back in class. Students must go first to one of the TAs and then to the professor only if the meeting, scheduled after receipt of the written appeal, was deemed unsatisfactory.

Attendance will be accounted for as part of your class participation grade.

The final essay must be submitted at the beginning of the last class session. There is a penalty of a full letter grade per day for late essays (both the film essay and the final essay). We will not accept papers that are submitted via e-mail.

Make-up policy: Students are expected to take the quiz and two in-class exams on the scheduled dates, and to hand the film essay and final essay in on time. Make ups and extensions will be reserved for the most exceptional of circumstances, such as a serious medical illness (accompanied by a physician's letter) or death of a close family member. You must have documentation in order for a make up to be considered. Weddings and graduation ceremonies will not be considered an acceptable basis for any missed examinations or an extension on the final.

Students are expected to understand and adhere to all University regulations about cheating. Students will also be expected to observe all University procedures and deadlines for withdrawals.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/

A notice regarding academic dishonesty: You should all be familiar with the UT Honor Code (or statement of ethics) and an explanation or example of what constitutes plagiarism (see the University Honor Code: http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01/index.html if you have any doubts about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism).

Religious Holidays: By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

No laptops or cell phones will be permitted in class. No texting!

I - INTRODUCTION

Week 1: 15 and 17 January – Overview of Brazilian History to 1930

- Skidmore's *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*, introduction and chapters 1-4 (pp 1-96). SKIM Chapters 1 and 2. READ CAREFULLY CHAPTERS 3 and 4.

Week 2: 22 and 24 January – Overview of Themes and Regions

- Eakin's *Brazil: The Once and Future Country*, chapter 2 (pp 67-101)
- Hervé's "A Cartographic and Statistical Portrait of Twentieth-Century Brazil" in *Brazil: A Century of Change* (pp 1-19)
- "Two Americas" in *The Economist*

II – POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC MODERNIZATION UNDER GETÚLIO VARGAS: 1930-1945

Week 3: 29 and 31 January

- Skidmore's *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*, chapter 5 (pp 97-125)
- Skidmore's "The Vargas Era: 1930-1945," in *Politics in Brazil: An Experiment in Democracy* (pp 33-47)
- Eakin's *Brazil: The Once and Future Country*, selection from chapter 4 (pp 181-196)

*****Quiz on Thursday, January 31*****

III – DEMOCRACY: 1945-1964

Week 4: 5 and 7 February

- Skidmore's *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*, chapter 6 (pp 126-152)
- Scott's "Brasília: The High Modernist City Built—Almost," in *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed* (pp 117-130).
- Foster's "Urban dreamscape" in *Financial Times*

IV – MILITARY RULE: 1964 - 1985

Week 5: 12 and 14 February – The National Security State

- Skidmore's *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*, chapter 7 (pp 153-179)
- Moreira Alves's *State and Opposition in Military Brazil*, chapter 1 (pp 13-28)

Week 6: 19 and 21 February – State-led Economic Development

- Eakin's. *Brazil: The Once and Future Country*, selection from chapter 5 (pp 223-249)
- Winn's *Americas: The Changing Face of Latin America and the Caribbean,* Chapter 5 (pp 165-208)

Week 7: 26 and 28 February – Occupation and Development of the Amazon

- Hecht and Cockburn's *The Fate of the Forest: Developers, Destroyers, and Defenders of the Amazon*, chapter 6 (pp 104-141)

- Lourenço's "Amazonia - Past Progress and Future Prospects," in *Brazil: A Century of Change* (pp 253-270)
- Hochstetler and Keck's *Greening Brazil.* Amazônia (141-185)

*****First in-class exam on Thursday, 28 February*****

V – RETURN TO DEMOCRACY: 1985 - Present

Week 8: 5 and 7 March – Democracy within Constraints

- Skidmore's *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*, chapter 8 (pp 180-228)
- Weyland's "The Growing Sustainability of Brazil's Low-Quality Democracy," in *The Third Wave of Democratization in Latin America* (pp 90-120)
- Hunter and Sugiyama's "Democracy and Social Policy in Brazil: Advancing Basic Needs, Preserving Privileged Interests" (pp 29-58)
- Barrionuevo's "Educational Gaps Limit Brazil's Reach" in *The New York Times*

Week 9: SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

Week 10: 19 and 21 March – The Workers' Party in Power

- Skidmore's *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*, chapter 9 (pp 229-255)
- Hunter's *The Transformation of the Workers' Party in Brazil,* Chapter 6 (pp 146-176)

Week 11: 26 and 28 March – Political Maturation, Positive Economic Prospects

- Roett's *The New Brazil: From Backwater to BRIC* (pp 109-135)
- Sharma's "Bearish on Brazil." *Foreign Affairs.*
- Lapper's "Resilient Brazil." *Foreign Affairs.*
- Power's "Brazilian Democracy as a Late Bloomer: Reevaluating the Regime in the Cardoso-Lula Era," in *Latin American Research Review* (pp 218-247)
- Hunter's "The 2010 Elections in Brazil" in *Electoral Studies* (pp 1-4)
- "Happy families." *The Economist*.
- Soares' "Brazil's Bolsa Família: A Review" (55–60)

VI – CULTURE AND SOCIOLOGY

Week 12: 2 and 4 April – Themes in the Study of Brazilian Culture

- Da Matta's "For an Anthropology of the Brazilian Tradition," in *The Brazilian Puzzle* (pp 270-291)

- Almeida's "Core Values, Education, and Democracy: An Empirical Tour of DaMatta's Brazil," in *Democratic Brazil Revisited* (pp 233-256)

*****Second in-class exam on Thursday, April 4*****

Week 13: 9 and 11 April – Slavery and its Legacies

- Bailey's *Legacies of Race: Identities, Attitudes, and Politics in Brazil*, chapters 1, 3, 5-6, 9-10 (pp 1-12; 39-65; 88-144; 190-226)

Week 14: 16 and 18 April – Poverty and Privilege: the Two Worlds of Brazil

- Caldeira's *City of Walls,* Chapter 7 (pp 256-296)
- Pereira's "Public Security, Private Interests, and Police Reform in Brazil," in *Democratic Brazil Revisited* (pp 185-208)

*****Film Review due on Thursday, April 18*****

Week 15: 23 and 25 April – Soccer, Samba, and Soaps: Integrating Forces in a Divided Society

- Page's "Soccer Madness - *Futebol* in Brazil," in *Sport in Latin America and the Caribbean* (pp 33-49)
- Gaffney's *Temples of the Earthbound Gods*, Chapter 2 (pp 40-76)
- LaPastina's "Telenovela"
- Soong's "Telenovela fantasies"
- Kugel's "Soccer and Soap Operas in the Amazon"
- "Soaps, Sex and Sociology" in *The Economist*
- Downie's "Brazil's racy telenovelas inspire drop in birth rate, rise in divorce"
- Cynthia Gorney's "Machisma," in *National Geographic*
- Guillermoprieto's *The Heart that Bleeds* (pp 287-316)

Week 16: 30 April and 2 May – Review and Final Reflections

No new reading

***** Final Essay (take-home) due on Thursday, 2 May *****