

Politics, Economy, and Society of Contemporary Brazil

GOV 337F 38434, LAS 337Q 39843

Fall 2022

Tues/Thurs 3:30-5:00, BEN 1.122

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-3:00; Thursdays 12:30-2:00, and by appointment

This course will examine the major political, economic, and sociological developments of Brazil in the 20th and 21st centuries. Noting significant changes as well as marked continuities that the country has undergone, it will emphasize the broad themes of state-led industrialization and economic growth; the alternation of authoritarian and democratic governments; and the multiple problems generated by high levels of socio-economic inequality. In addition to examining the many challenges that Brazil faces, the course will also explore the many opportunities the country enjoys.

The political topics to be investigated include the role of power concentration at pivotal moments in Brazil's political history, and the institutions that allow the country's elites to retain such striking power and privilege even in periods of democratic government. Economic topics include the centrality of state-led development, recent moves toward enhanced globalization, and the destructive extraction of Amazonian resources. Sociological subjects include the many problems that have arisen from a development model that has created extreme concentrations of wealth and record levels of income inequality. Chief among those problems are high crime and chronic corruption. The complex issues of slavery and race will also be treated. Additionally, we will examine some of the social policy innovations developed and implemented in the last twenty years.

The course revolves around several core questions.

*Have the major initiatives that have advanced Brazil's modernization come from the state or society?

*How have important institutions of the past weighed on the present, despite outward signs of change?

*How has Brazil managed to combine such striking levels of socioeconomic inequality with *relatively* stable and open forms of politics?

*What nation-building and nation-integrating strategies have Brazilian governments pursued over time to create social cohesion and stability?

*What have been the legacies of slavery in the country, and what are contemporary governments doing to mitigate the most harmful aspects of these legacies?

*As a continental sized federal country with a history of slavery and a legendary frontier, Brazil shares many similarities with the United States of America. How do these shared dimensions create certain common outcomes between the two countries, and how do other factors influence them to be different?

*What factors have created the current multifaceted crisis in Brazil?

This is an especially exciting semester to be taking a course on contemporary Brazil, as an historic presidential election will occur in October.

Expected learning outcomes include an understanding of the basic historical facts necessary to contemplate these questions intelligently, and a strong grasp of the conceptual and theoretical issues that they entail. It is expected that student come to understand the impact of the past on present day political, economic, and social challenges, and to recognize the interests and resources of the various actors that compete for power in the country.

The course assumes no prior knowledge or prerequisites.

Three books are required and are available for purchase at the University Co-op bookstore. I strongly encourage you to buy these books if at all possible. All three are also available through the UT library system.

Required Items for Purchase

- James N. Green and Thomas E. Skidmore. 2022. *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*. Third Edition. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Marshall C. Eakin. 2017. *Becoming Brazilians: Race and National Identity in Twentieth-Century Brazil*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- 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 figure into the final grade. There will be two quizzes, an in-class mid-term, and two essays. I will keep the higher grade of the two quizzes. Bring a blue book for the mid-term. Hard copies of the essays should be handed in at the beginning of class on the date they are due. I will hand out questions and instructions for both well in advance.

<i>Assignment:</i>	<i>Grade Distribution</i>	<i>Date/Deadline</i>
Class participation	10 percent	
Quizzes	10 percent	Sept 13, Nov 8
In class mid-term exam	25 percent	Oct. 6
Essay	25 percent	November 1
Final take home essay	30 percent	December 1

Grading: This course will use plus/minus grades.

Your final grade will be calculated as follows: I 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, I 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 one week of the day on which the assignment was handed back in class. The appeal must be made in writing and must focus on the content of the work.

Attendance will be accounted for as part of your class participation grade. There will be a sign in sheet upon entering the classroom. While attendance is a precondition for participating, merely attending but not entering into the discussion will not count as full participation. Interventions need not be earth shattering to be considered participation! Coming prepared with reactions to the readings and asking questions about the readings or lectures can be useful points of departure for a productive discussion. Skipping class *four or more sessions* without a cleared excuse beforehand will start your class participation grade at a C. (In other words, you can receive no higher than a C on participation if you have four or more unexcused absences.)

The essays must be submitted in hard copy form at the *beginning* of the class sessions in which they are due. On both, there will be a penalty of a 1/3 letter grade per day (e.g. A to A-, etc.) for lateness. You need to keep a copy of all submitted work.

Office Hours: Please feel free to come to office hours and discuss anything on your mind. I have deliberately set them at two different times to accommodate people with different schedules.

No laptops or cell phones will be permitted in class. This policy is designed to encourage the formation of a community among students and to get students to process the information better as they take notes. Ample research suggests that taking notes by hand leads to superior processing of information.

Make-up policy: Students are expected to take the quizzes and mid-term exam on the scheduled dates, and to hand the essays in on time. Make-ups and extensions will be reserved only for officially approved university activities and otherwise for the most

exceptional of circumstances, such as a serious medical illness or death of a close family member.

If you are a student with a disability, or think you may have a disability, and need accommodations please contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). You may refer to SSD's website for contact and more information. See <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>. If you are already registered with SSD, please deliver your Accommodation Letter to me as early as possible in the semester so we can make appropriate arrangements.

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 a violation of academic integrity:

<https://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/standardsofconduct.php>

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 plan to miss a class 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.

Pronouns and Related Matters: I am happy to refer to you however you would like, including if you go by a name other than that listed officially. Please just email me and inform me.

This class is using the Lectures Online recording system. To review a recording, simply click on the Lectures Online navigation tab and follow the instructions presented to you on the page. You can learn more about how to use the Lectures Online system at <http://sites.la.utexas.edu/lecturesonline/students/how-to-access-recordings/>.

Other websites of possible relevance:

Sanger Learning Center: <https://ugs.utexas.edu/slcc>

The University Writing Center: <https://uwc.utexas.edu/>

Covid-19 Information and Resources:

<https://healthyhorns.utexas.edu/coronavirus.html>

Student Emergency Services:

<https://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/>

Counseling and Mental Health Center: <https://cmhc.utexas.edu/>

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

*Posted in Canvas

I – INTRODUCTION

Week 1: 23 and 25 August – Introduction and Overview of Themes

- Green and Skidmore's *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*, Introduction
- <https://www.britannica.com/place/Brazil/The-economy> (read all the way down through the end of <https://www.britannica.com/place/Brazil/Sports-and-recreation>) Stop before “History of Brazil.”

Week 2: 30 August and 1 September – Brazilian History to 1930

- Green and Skidmore's *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*, Chapter 4, Chapter 5
- Eakin's *Becoming Brazilians: Race and National Identity in Twentieth-Century Brazil*, Introduction and Chapter 1

II – POL & ECON MODERNIZATION UNDER G. VARGAS: 1930-1945

Week 3: 6 and 8 September

- Green and Skidmore's *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*, Chapter 6
- Eakin's *Becoming Brazilians: Race and National Identity in Twentieth-Century Brazil*, Chapter 2

III – DEMOCRACY and DEVELOPMENTALISM: 1945-1964

Week 4: 13 and 15 September

- Green and Skidmore's *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*, Chapter 7
- *Scott's “Brasília: The High Modernist City Built—Almost,” in *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed* (NOTE: you need read only pages 117-146 of the posted chapter)

Reminder of Quiz on September 13

IV – MILITARY RULE: 1964 - 1985

Week 5: 20 and 22 September – National Security and Developmentalism

- Green and Skidmore's *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*, Chapter 8
- *Hecht and Cockburn's *The Fate of the Forest: Developers, Destroyers, and Defenders of the Amazon*, Chapter 6

V – RETURN TO DEMOCRACY: 1985 – Present

Week 6: 27 and 29 September – Democracy within Political and & Socio-Economic Constraints

- Green and Skidmore's *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*, Chapter 9
- *Hagopian's "The Political Economy of Inequality" in the Ames' *Routledge Handbook of Brazilian Politics* (Entire book is posted. See chapter 21, which starts on page 375).
- *Hunter and Sugiyama's "Democracy and Social Policy in Brazil: Advancing Basic Needs, Preserving Privileged Interests"

Week 7: 4 and 6 October – The Cardoso Presidency and Later Turn to the Left

- Green and Skidmore's *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*, Chapter 10
- *Amaral and Meneguello's "The PT in Power" in Kingstone and Power, *Democratic Brazil Divided* (Chapter 1)
- *Goldfrank and Wampler's "Good Government and Politics as Usual?" in Kingstone and Power, *Democratic Brazil Divided* (Chapter 2)

Reminder of in-class Mid-Term Exam on October 6

Week 8: 11 and 13 October – Inequality and Social Policy Expansion, and Amazon Issues

- *Layton's "Bolsa Família: Historical, Popular, And Electoral Perspectives" in Ames' *Routledge Handbook of Brazilian Politics* (*Entire book is posted. See Chapter 26, which starts on page 470.*)
- *Sugiyama's "Transformation in Social Policy: Progress Toward Social Inclusion and Human Development" in Ames' *Routledge Handbook of*

Brazilian Politics (Entire book is posted. See Chapter 27, which starts on page 490.)

- Deforestation in the Amazon: A CFR InfoGuide Presentation:
<https://www.cfr.org/interactives/amazon-deforestation/#/en>
- *Boucher, Roquemore, and Fitzhugh's, "Brazil's Success in Reducing Deforestation"

Week 9: 18 and 20 October – Corruption, Crime, and the Turn to the Right

- Green and Skidmore's *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*, Chapter 11 (only pages 289-312)
- *Kingstone and Power's, "Introduction" in Kingstone and Power, *Democratic Brazil Divided* (pages 3-23)
- *Matthew M. Taylor's, "Corruption and Accountability in Brazil," Chapter 3 in Kingstone and Power, *Democratic Brazil Divided* (pages 77-96)
- *Lagunes and Svejnar's "Introduction" in *Corruption and the Lava Jato Scandal in Latin America (only until page 9)*
- Richard Lapper, "Against the Tide: Why it's so hard to stop violence in Brazil", *Americas Quarterly*, 2018, Available at:
<https://www.americasquarterly.org/content/homicidereduction-brazil-english>

Week 10: 25 and 27 October –The Election and Government of Jair Bolsonaro

- *Hunter and Power's "Bolsonaro and Brazil's Illiberal Backlash"
- Green and Skidmore's *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*, Chapter 11 (only pages 312-322)
- *Hunter and Vega's "Populism and the Military: Symbiosis and Tension in Bolsonaro's Brazil"

Week 11: 1 and 3 November: Amazonian Devastation, Covid Mismanagement, and the 2022 Elections (Lula vs. Bolsonaro for the presidency)

- *Lapper's, *Beef, Bible and Bullets*, Chapters 10 and 11 (On the Environment and the Amazon)

- *Fearnside's "Challenges for Sustainable Development in Brazilian Amazonia"
- *Rajão et al.'s "The Rotten Apples of Brazil's Agribusiness"
- *Touchton et al.'s "A Partisan Pandemic: State Government Public Health Policies to Combat Covid-19 in Brazil"
- I will assign one piece on the elections (TBD)

Reminder: Essay Due on November 1

VI – CULTURE AND SOCIOLOGY

Week 12: 8 and 10 November: Television, Soccer, Music and Legacies of Race

- *Eakin's *Becoming Brazilians: Race and National Identity in Twentieth-Century Brazil*, Chapters 4, 5, 6
- Bailey's *Legacies of Race: Identities, Attitudes, and Politics in Brazil*, Chapters 1,3,5

Reminder of Quiz on November 8

Week 13: 15 and 17 November –Race, the *Movimento Negro*, and Affirmative Action

- Bailey's *Legacies of Race: Identities, Attitudes, and Politics in Brazil*, Chapters 6, 9,10

FALL BREAK/THANKSGIVING WEEK: no reading

Week 14: 29 November and December 1: Final Reflections

No new reading

Reminder: Take Home Final Essay Due on December 1