

Politics, Economy, and Society of Contemporary Brazil

GOV 337F 37925, LAS 337Q 39215

Spring 2022

Tues/Thurs 11:00-12:15

PAR 101

Professor Wendy Hunter

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30-2:00; Thursdays 9:30-11:00, and by appointment

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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 issue of race will also be treated. We will also 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, if anything, 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?

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. If not, however, the first (Green and Skidmore) is on order and will become available online through the UT library system. The second and third (Garmany and Pereira, and Bailey) are currently available online 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.
- Jeff Garmany and Anthony W. Pereira. 2019. *Understanding Contemporary Brazil*. London: Routledge 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, two essays, and a final exam. I will keep the higher grade of the two quizzes (administered on Feb 8 and April 14). There will be two five page essays (due in class on February 24 and April 5), for which I will hand out questions and instructions well in advance. The final exam will take place on May 12. Please bring a blue book to the final.

<i>Assignment:</i>	<i>Grade Distribution</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Class participation	10 percent	
Quizzes	10 percent	Feb 8, Ap 14
First essay	25 percent	February 24
Second essay	25 percent	April 5
Final take home essay	30 percent	May 12 (9-12)

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 given assignment.

Attendance will be accounted for as part of your class participation grade. There will be a sign in sheet upon entering the classroom. (I will register attendance for the initial Zoom sessions as well.) While attendance is a precondition for participating, merely attending but not entering into the discussion will not count as full participation. 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 at the *beginning* of the class sessions in which they are due. On both, there will be a penalty of a full letter grade per day (e.g. A to B) for lateness. You need to keep a copy of all work handed in.

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.

Make-up policy: Students are expected to take the quizzes and exams 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 (accompanied by a physician's letter) or death of a close family member. You must have official documentation in order for a make-up or extension to be considered.

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: <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 discuss your approved accommodations.

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/standardsconduct.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 must miss a class or an examination 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.

Classroom safety and Covid-19

To help preserve our in-person learning environment, the university recommends the following.

- Adhere to university mask guidance. Masks are strongly recommended, but optional, inside university buildings for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, except when alone in a private office or single-occupant cubicle.
- Vaccinations are widely available, free and not billed to health insurance. The vaccine will help protect against the transmission of the virus to others and reduce serious symptoms in those who are vaccinated.
- Proactive Community Testing remains an important part of the university's efforts to protect our community. Tests are fast and free.
- We encourage the use of the Protect Texas App each day prior to coming to campus.
- If you develop COVID-19 symptoms or feel sick, stay home and contact the University Health Services' Nurse Advice Line at 512-475-6877. If you need to be absent from class, contact Student Emergency Services and they will notify your professors. In addition, to help understand what to do if you have been had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, see this University Health Services link.
- Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line (BCCAL) remains available as the primary tool to address questions or concerns from the university community about COVID-19.
- Students who test positive should contact BCCAL or self-report (if tested off campus) to University Health Services.
- Visit Protect Texas Together for more information.

If you are out due to COVID, I will require full documentation.

This class is using the Lectures Online recording system. This system records the audio and video material presented in class for you to review after class. Links for the recordings will appear in the Lectures Online tab on the Canvas page for this class. You will find this tab along the left side navigation in Canvas.

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/>.

You can find additional information about Lectures Online at:
<https://sites.la.utexas.edu/lecturesonline/>.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

*Posted in Canvas

I – INTRODUCTION

Week 1: 18 and 20 January – Introduction and Overview of Themes

- Garmany and Pereira's *Understanding Contemporary Brazil*, Chapter 1, Chapter 2, Chapter 3 (only pages 33 to 48), Chapter 4 (only pages 58 to 72), and Chapter 10 (only pages 185 to 193)

Week 2: 25 and 27 January – Brazilian History to 1930

- Green and Skidmore's *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*, Introduction, Chapter 4, Chapter 5

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

Week 3: 1 and 3 February

- Green and Skidmore's *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*, Chapter 6
- *Eakin's *Becoming Brazilian: Race and National Identity in Twentieth-Century Brazil* (only pages 89-106, section entitled "Samba, Carnaval, and Getúlio Vargas")

III – DEMOCRACY and DEVELOPMENTALISM: 1945-1964

Week 4: 8 and 10 February

- 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*

QUIZ Feb 8

IV – MILITARY RULE: 1964 - 1985

Week 5: 15 and 17 February – 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: 22 and 24 February – Democracy within Constraints & Socio-Economic Limits

- 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"

FIRST ESSAY DUE, February 24

Week 7: 1 and 3 March – The Cardoso Presidency and Later Turn to the Left

- Green and Skidmore's *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*, Chapter 10
- Garmany and Pereira's *Understanding Contemporary Brazil*, Chapter 7 (only pages 131-142) and Chapter 10 (only pages 193-207)
- *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)

Week 8: 8 and 10 March – 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"

SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

Week 9: 22 and 24 March – 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>
- Garmany and Pereira, *Understanding Contemporary Brazil*, Chapter 6

Week 10: 29 and 31 March –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: 5 and 7 April: Amazonian Devastation, Covid Mismanagement, and the Run up to the 2022 Election

- Garmany and Pereira's *Understanding Contemporary Brazil*, Chapter 8
- *Fearnside's "Challenges for Sustainable Development in Brazilian Amazonia"
- *Rajão et al.'s "The Rotten Apples of Brazil's Agribusiness"
- *Touhchon et al.'s "A Partisan Pandemic: State Government Public Health Policies to Combat Covid-19 in Brazil"
- *The EIU's "Things to Watch in Brazil in 2022"

SECOND ESSAY, due April 5

VI – CULTURE AND SOCIOLOGY

Week 12: 12 and 14 April: National Identity in Twentieth-Century Brazil: Mestiçagem as an Integrating Force in a Divided Society?

- *Eakin's *Becoming Brazilian: Race and National Identity in Twentieth-Century Brazil*, Introduction (only until p. 26), and Chapters 2, 4, 5
- Garmany and Pereira, *Understanding Contemporary Brazil*, Chapters 9, 11

QUIZ NUMBER TWO, April 14

Week 13: 19 and 21 April – Legacies of Race

- Bailey's *Legacies of Race: Identities, Attitudes, and Politics in Brazil*, Chapters 1,3,5
- Garmany and Pereira, *Understanding Contemporary Brazil*, Chapter 5

Week 14: 26 and 28 April –The *Movimento Negro* and Affirmative Action

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

Week 15: 3 and 5 May – Final Reflections

No new reading

FINAL EXAM, May 12, 9-12. BRING A BLUE BOOK