

POLS 3334 Politics in World Regions: Politics of Brazil
Spring 2014

Instructor: Dr. Taeko Hiroi

Office: Benedict Hall 312

Office Hours: MW 10-11, and by appointment

Phone: 747-7983

E-mail: thiroy@utep.edu

Class Time/Location: TR 10:30-11:50/UGLC342

Course Description

Welcome to the politics of Brazil! In this course, we will survey the politics and political institutions of Brazil. Brazil is the largest country in Latin America and one of the largest nations in the world. Brazil is a leader of the developing world and is described by many as an “emerging power” and a “sleeping giant” that will one day wake up to become one of the world’s economic and political power centers. Although Brazil has so much promise and potential, its history has been paradoxically marked by a continuous struggle between democracy and authoritarianism, economic development and crises, and social affability and violence. Is Brazil finally ready to bring to fruition its long-promised potential in the 21st century? What challenges are Brazilian citizens facing? And how effective are Brazilian policymakers and institutions to meet and overcome these challenges? In this course, we will examine contemporary issues in Brazilian politics.

This course is composed of three sections. The first section examines major historical developments in Brazilian politics, including independence, the ‘*Estado Novo*,’ military rule, and (re)democratization. The second section introduces you to the country’s government structure and political processes. The last section focuses on understanding some of the principal challenges Brazil is facing today.

Course Objectives

Upon the successful completion of the course, you will be able to:

- 1) identify key political events and institutions in Brazil;
- 2) analyze major issues confronting Brazil today;
- 3) evaluate various policy proposals discussed by Brazilian policymakers; and
- 4) apply tools, concepts, and theories you learned to analyzing other developing and developed countries.

Required Books

- Thomas E. Skidmore. 2010. *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*. Second Edition. Oxford University Press.

- Peter R. Kingstone and Timothy J. Power, eds. 2008. *Democratic Brazil Revisited*. University of Pittsburgh Press.

Course Requirements

Class participation

Class attendance is not an option. I expect you to come to every class having completed assigned readings and prepared to discuss them. You will be evaluated on both the quality and quantity of your participation. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain the materials covered in the class.

Readings and Mini Presentations

You are expected to **complete all reading assignments before class**. Timely completion of assigned readings is important for you to understand lectures and make useful contributions to class discussions. Lectures may not necessarily duplicate assigned readings, but you will be responsible for acquainting yourself with the materials in the readings. The reading schedule is found at the end of this syllabus. I reserve the right to assign you short additional readings as appropriate.

It is important for you to be knowledgeable about, and able to analyze, the current political debates on principal issues in Brazil. To facilitate such efforts, I will post weekly news analysis and reports called *Brazil Focus* on our course website. Please read these reports every week prior to coming to class. We will discuss in class some of the issues that appear in the report. You are also encouraged to keep up with current events in Brazil using other media, such as newspapers and magazines.

To motivate and facilitate your learning, each student is asked to give **at least two five-minute “mini presentations”** of the topics of their interest. Up to three presentations will be given at the beginning of each class. Students are required to give at least one presentation before the Spring Break, and at least one presentation after the Spring Break. In general, the scheduling of these mini presentations is based on the first-come basis. If more than three students volunteer to present on the same day, I will give the priority to the students who have not presented. If you give more than two mini presentations, you will earn three bonus points per extra presentation toward your participation grade.

Research Paper and Presentation

Research projects in this course will be conducted by ‘teams’ of students on various topics. At the beginning of the semester, we will form these teams, with 4 to 5 students in each team. Each team chooses a research topic in consultation with me. There is a considerable degree of freedom in selecting a research topic, but it must have significant relevance to the current political development and debates in Brazil. Teams will **present their research** projects using Power Point on a designated date between May 1 and 8. A hard copy of the paper is **due to me on May 8 in class**. Each team will have autonomy in determining the specific division of labor, but keep in mind that it is critical that everyone take part in the entire process. I will assess both your individual work and group work.

Exams

There will be a mid-term and a final exam. These exams will be based on the readings, lectures, and class discussions. **The mid-term exam** will be given in class on **February 27**. **The final** will be comprehensive and given on **May 15 at 10-12:45**. Students will not be allowed to enter the room after 10 minutes past the beginning of the scheduled exam time unless prior arrangements are made with me. Make-up exams are considered only with the presentation of proper documentation indicating the nature of emergency. No make-up exams will be given for missing an exam due to tardiness.

Grades

Final grades are determined as follows:

Course Requirement	Weight
Mid-Term	20%
Final Exam	30%
Reading and Mini Presentations	10%
Research Project & Presentation	30%
Class Participation	10%

Final Grade Scale	
90% ≤	A
80% ≤ & < 90%	B
70% ≤ & < 80%	C
60% ≤ & < 70%	D
<60%	F

Course Policy

Please comply with the following policies in order to maintain an effective and pleasant learning environment for everyone.

- Cell phones must be off during class hours. They are allowed under emergency circumstances, but please notify me ahead of time.
- No chatting, e-mailing, internet browsing, or any activity not related to class is allowed during class hours. Those activities disturb other students who want to learn. If you need to do these things, please leave the classroom.
- Please do not use your personal computer or other electronic devices during the class except for the times set aside for team activities. This includes note-taking. You may print class materials ahead of time and take notes in the traditional way (with a pen and paper).

- At times it may be necessary to make adjustments to reading assignments and course schedule as the semester unfolds. If necessary, I will make such announcements in class and/or on the course's Blackboard page.
- I may distribute handouts and make announcements on Blackboard as well as in class. So check Blackboard on a regular basis.
- Please make every effort to come to class on time and stay through the end of the class. When a student comes to class late or leaves early, other students (and I) will notice it, disrupting the class.
- You are welcome to email me if you have questions or need to make an appointment. Please use your UTEP email and identify your name and the class to which you are referring.
- Please do not be late to take the exams. No student will be allowed to enter the classroom after 10 minutes past the beginning of the scheduled exam time unless prior arrangements are made with me.

Course Materials

Course materials are intended for your personal use only. An unauthorized use, dissemination, distribution, publication, or replication of course materials is strictly prohibited. Course materials refer to those made available to you through this course. They include, but not limited to, materials made available on Blackboard (such as power point slides, lecture outlines, and supplementary readings), study guides, and exams.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as one's own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Office of Student Life for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. Refer to <http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm> for further information.

Disabilities

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally within the first two weeks to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) (formerly known as the Disabled Student Services Office) in 302 Union East within the first two weeks of classes. CASS can also be reached in the following ways:

Web: <http://sa.utep.edu/dsso/>

Phone: (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY

E-Mail: dss@utep.edu

Fax: (915) 747-8712

Tentative Course Schedule

*The course schedule is subject to change as needed.

Part I: Brazil at Critical Junctures

January 21: Introduction & Overview of Brazil

January 23-30: The Colonial Period to the Empire

- Reading: Skidmore, Introduction and Chapters 1-3
- Reading: Brazil Focus
- Formation of Teams

February 4-6: The First Republic and the *Estado Novo*

- Reading: Skidmore Chapters 4-6
- Reading: Brazil Focus

February 11-18: Military Rule

- Reading: Skidmore Chapter 7
- Reading: Brazil Focus
- Film: “four days in September”

February 20-25: Democratic Brazil

- Reading: Skidmore Chapters 8-9
- Reading: Brazil Focus

February 27: **Mid-Term Exam**

Part 2: Political Institutions and Democracy in Brazil

March 4-6: The 1988 Constitution and Government Structure

- Reading: Kingstone and Power eds., Chs. 1
- Reading: Brazil Focus

March 10-14: **Spring Break**

March 18-20: Electoral Systems and Political Parties

- Reading: Kingstone and Power eds., Chs. 2, 4, 5
- Reading: Brazil Focus

March 25-27: Democratic Accountability, Corruption & Citizenship

- Reading: Kingstone and Power eds. Chs. 6 & 11
- Taeko Hiroi. 2013. "Governability and Accountability in Brazil: Dilemma of Coalitional Presidentialism." *The Journal of Social Science*. Available at http://works.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1019&context=taeko_hiroi
- Reading: Brazil Focus

Part 3: Policy Challenges

April 3 1-8: Public Security

- Reading: Kingstone and Power eds., Chs. 9 & 12
- Reading: Brazil Focus
- Film: "City of God"

April 10-15: Economic Policy and Performance

- Reading: Kingstone and Power eds., Ch. 7
- Reading: Taeko Hiroi. 2009. "Exchange Rate Regime, Central Bank Independence, and Political Business Cycles in Brazil." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 44(1).
- Reading: Brazil Focus

April 17-22: Social Policy

- Reading: Kingstone and Power eds., Chs. 8 & 10
- Reading: Brazil Focus

April 24-29: Foreign Policy

- Reading: Gaspare M. Genna and Taeko Hiroi. "Mercosur" in *Regional Integration and Democratic Conditionality*. Available on Blackboard.
- Reading: Brazil Focus

May 1-8: Research Paper Presentations

- Reading: Brazil Focus

May 15: **Final Exam** (10-12:45)