

POLS 3334 Politics in World Regions: Politics of Brazil
Spring 2018

Instructor: Dr. Taeko Hiroi

Office: Benedict Hall 312

Office Hours: M 4-5, W 1:30-2:30, and by appointment

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Class Time/Location: MW 10:30-11:50/Quinn Hall 203

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 countries 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? After a brief survey of Brazil’s political history, we will examine contemporary issues in Brazilian politics.

This course has 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.

Throughout this course, you will develop your global awareness, critical thinking, and research skills by both individual and team work.

Course Objectives

Upon the successful completion of the course, you will:

- 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;
- 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 participation is critical for your success and creating a positive learning environment for the class. Participation does not mean simply attending the class; it requires active learning and involvement in class discussions and other activities. 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

You are expected to complete reading assignments before the class period for which they are assigned. 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. *Brazil Focus* is an excellent English-language source of current event information and is published weekly. It is available at <https://brazilinitiative.org/brazil-focus/>. Please read *Brazil Focus* 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.

Quizzes

There will be pop quizzes on the readings, lectures, class discussions, and current events. You will earn one point for each correct answer, and a total of 30 points will be 100 % of your initial semester quiz grade. Any additional points you earn will be bonus points. No make-up quiz will be given. There will be more than enough quiz opportunities to make up for a missed quiz.

Mini Presentations

To motivate and facilitate your learning, you will give **two five-minute “mini presentations”** of the topics of your interest. Up to three presentations will be given at the beginning of each class. You need to deliver **at least one presentation on or before March 7**. In general, the scheduling of these mini presentations will be based on the first-come basis. If more than three students volunteer to present on the same day, presenters will be determined by lottery. Please do not wait until the last minute. We have enough class meetings to accommodate all students during the semester. I

may grant exceptions to the daily maximum rule if there is a significant need for one, on the condition that students receive only 70% of the presentation grade for their special accommodation.

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 5 to 6 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 developments and debates in Brazil. Teams will **present their research** projects using Power Point on a designated date (**April 23, 25, or 30**). A hard copy of the paper is **due to me on April 30 at the beginning of the 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 two exams. These exams will be based on the readings, lectures, and class discussions. **Exam 1** will be given on Wednesday, **February 21**. **Exam 2** will be given on Wednesday, **May 2**. 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 |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Exam 1 | 20% |
| Exam 2 | 25% |
| Quizzes | 10% |
| Mini Presentations | 10% |
| Research Project & Presentation | 30% |
| Class Participation | 5% |

| 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.

- **No electronic devices are allowed during class meetings.** This includes, but are not limited to, cell phones, laptops, and tablet computers. If you bring them to class, they must be turned off and stored in your bag all the time. If you need to keep your cell phone on for emergency, please notify me ahead of time.
 - **Exception:** You may use your electronic devices during times designated for research team work for that purpose only.
- No chatting, napping, 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.
- 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.
- **No inappropriate behavior will be tolerated.** Inappropriate student behavior will be reported to and handled by the University. The professor retains the discretion to drop students from the course for any inappropriate behavior. Please remain respectful and professional in your conduct with me and with your fellow students.
- Please check the course's Blackboard page often.
- **Arrive early on the exam day.** 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. Tardiness will not be a valid excuse to request a make-up exam.
- I will consider giving make-up exams under valid, documented emergencies only. If you need to take a make-up exam under these circumstances, please contact me prior to the exam (if you can).
- There will be no make-up quizzes for missed pop quizzes.
- You are welcome to email me if you have questions or need to make an appointment. Please use your UTEP email, indicate "POLS3334 Brazil" in the subject line, and provide your name and UTEP student ID number in the body of the email.

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 and/or by me or teaching assistants. They include, but are not limited to, materials made available on Blackboard (such as power point slides, lecture outlines, and supplementary readings), study guides, and exams.

Academic Integrity and Scholastic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. All work submitted must be original and your own. Students may not submit graded work from another course. Forms of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, cheating, collusion, and plagiarism. **Cheating** may involve communicating with another student or possessing unauthorized materials during a test. Falsifying research data, reports, or academic work offered for credit is also a form of cheating. **Collusion** involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. One example of collusion is preparing a discussion post for another person or having someone prepare a discussion post for you. **Plagiarism** involves the presentation of another person's work as your own, whether you mean to or not. For example, if you copy parts of or whole papers off the Internet without proper citation of the sources, it is a form of plagiarism. Lack of proper citation of sources is considered plagiarism even if borrowed ideas are paraphrased.

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 disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. Refer to <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/> for further information.

Accommodations

If you have a disability and need accommodations, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. CASS' Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

Tentative Course Schedule

*The course schedule is subject to change as needed at the professor's discretion.

Part I: Brazil at Critical Junctures

January 17: Introduction & Overview of Brazil

January 22, 24: The Colonial Period to the Empire

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

January 29, 31: The First Republic and the *Estado Novo*

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

February 5, 7, 12: Military Rule

- Reading: Skidmore Chapter 7
- Reading: Brazil Focus
- Film: "Four Days in September"

February 14, 19: Democratic Brazil

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

February 21: **Exam 1**

Part 2: Political Institutions and Democracy in Brazil

February 26, 28: The 1988 Constitution and Government Structure

- Reading: Kingstone and Power eds., Chs. 1, 4
- Reading: Brazil Focus

March 5, 7: Electoral Systems and Political Parties

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

*Each student needs to give at least one "mini presentation" on or before March 7.

March 12-16 **Spring Break**

Part 3: Policy Challenges

March 19, 21, 26: Public Security

- Reading: Kingstone and Power eds., Chs. 9 & 12

- Reading: Brazil Focus
- Film: “City of God”

March 28, April 2: 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). (Blackboard)
- Reading: Brazil Focus

April 4, 9: Social Policy

- Reading: Kingstone and Power eds., Chs. 8 & 10
- Video: “Brazil in Black and White”
- Reading: Brazil Focus

April 11, 16: Democratic Accountability and Corruption

- Reading: Kingstone and Power eds. Ch. 6
- Reading: Taeko Hiroi. 2013. “Governability and Accountability in Brazil: Dilemma of Coalitional Presidentialism.” *The Journal of Social Science*. (Blackboard)
- Reading: Ryan Lloyd and Carlos Oliveira. 2016. “How Brazil’s electoral system led the country into political crisis.” *The Washington Post*. (Blackboard)
- Reading: Brazil Focus

April 18, 23: Foreign Policy

- Reading: JW Cason and TJ Power. 2009. “Presidentialization, Pluralization, and the Rollback of Itamaraty: Explaining Change in Brazilian Foreign Policy Making in the Cardoso-Lula Era” *International Political Science Review* 30(2). (Blackboard)
- Reading: Leslie E. Wehner. 2015. “Role Expectations As Foreign Policy: South American Secondary Powers' Expectations of Brazil As A Regional Power.” *Foreign Policy Analysis* 11(4): 435–455. (Blackboard)
- Reading: Brazil Focus

April (23), 25, 30: Research Paper Presentations

- Reading: Brazil Focus

*Note: We will use April 23 for paper presentations if necessary.

*April 30: **Research paper due in class**

May 2: **Exam 2**