THE POLITICS OF CONTEMPORARY BRAZIL

This course introduces the student to the politics of Latin America’s largest, most populous and most important country. A brief introduction that covers the period of Portuguese colonization as well as early independence and national eras will be followed by an intensive focus on the period from the presidency of Getulio Vargas to the present. Special attention will be given to the era of military government in the 1960s, to the “abertura” which opened the door to democratization in the 1990s, the conversion to neoliberalism under of President Henrique Cardoso, and the recent period under socialist presidents Luis Ignacio “Lula” da Silva and Dilma Rousseff.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will formulate a research thesis or question on one topic in Brazilian political development and produce an in-depth analysis of that topic.
2. Students will be able to summarize and analyze the major social, economic and political developments in Brazil from the colonial period through the First Republic.
3. Students will be able to explain and appraise the construction of Brazilian national identify during the Estado Novo.
4. Students will be able to describe, analyze and evaluate the unique participatory institutions of contemporary Brazil.

Required Texts: – books are available at the College bookstore/ University Books

Fausto, Boris. 1999 A Concise History of Brazil. Cambridge U.

Films - Recommended

| Amazon Journal | Gosses de Rio |
| Brazilian Connection | The Mission |
| Como Era Gostoso O Meu Frances | Quilombo |
| Emerging Powers (Brazil) | Solo: The Law of the Favela |
| Four Days in September | O Velho: Historia de Luis Carlos Prestes |
| Flying Dutchman: Brazil in 16th & 17th Century | Bus 174 |

Assignments:

Short Papers - Four short papers will be required during the semester. These papers are to be summaries and critical analyses of the course readings - Paper #1 for Topic I; Paper #2 for Topics II and II; Paper #3 for Topics IV and V; and Paper #4 for Topic VI. These papers should be typed, double-spaced, and at least three pages in length. Deadlines for these papers will be announced in class.
Research Paper - a short, focused 10 page research paper on one topic relevant to Brazilian political development – list attached (additional topics by permission of the instructor).

Research Paper Outline. The nature of this outline will be further discussed in class. The outline should articulate your tentative research thesis or problem and outline the major points the paper will discuss. It is to include a preliminary bibliography--i.e., works you have consulted in preparation of the topic.

Research Paper (draft). The draft of your research paper should be a complete, if rough, version of your final paper. The bibliography should be refined--i.e., a list of works cited in your draft. This draft is to be distributed to two of your classmates as well to the instructor for commentary.

Research Paper (completed paper). The final draft of your paper should be complete and have taken into account the criticism and corrections of the first two. The paper should be done in the form prescribed by the Political Science department in its “Guide to Referencing” http://polisci.cofc.edu/documents/polscitation.pdf

Oral and General Class Participation. Students are expected to attend each class session, take appropriate notes, and be prepared to give meaningful responses to questions based upon the course material and previous discussions. More than four un-excused absences will produce a grade of “F” (since only I can excuse you, check with me first)

Topics

I. Introduction to Course and Background on Brazil: The Corporative State
   Readings: Fausto, 1-197

II. Getulio Vargas and the Rise of the Modern Brazilian State and Politics
   Readings: Fausto, 198-236
   Levine, Chapters 1-6

III. The Democratic Experiment: From Vargas to Goulart
   Readings: Fausto, 237-279

IV. 1964 Coup and the Military Period
   Reading: Fausto, 280-332
   Kingstone & Power, Selections

V. Transition to Democracy and Reform and Failure
   Readings: Kingstone & Power, Selections

VI. Cardoso: Champion of Neoliberalism, Champion of Neo-Democracy //Lula – a New Day for the Brazilian (and Latin American) Worker? Rousseff – Consolidation or New Directions?
   Readings: Kingstone & Power, Selections
   Baiocchi- Selected chapters
Grades will be calculated as follows

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**GRADERS**

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**Class format** - Lectures will be combined with extensive class discussion. Your success in this course depends upon your active participation!!

**Attendance** - Attendance is mandatory. More than four un-excused absences will produce a grade of “F” (since only I can excuse you, check with me first)

**Exams** - There will be no exams in this course.

**College Network** - one of the best ways to contact me is by e-mail friedmand@cofc.edu -- I read my e-mail twice a day and once about 1:00 am every day during the semester. You may also access my own homepage [http://friedmand.people.cofc.edu](http://friedmand.people.cofc.edu) and the LACS homepage [http://lacs.cofc.edu](http://lacs.cofc.edu) where you will find my class schedule, course syllabi, and many helpful links for this class.

**Electronics Policy**

All laptops, ipods (or equivalent), and cell phones must be turned off during class time. If you must have your cell phone on for emergency purposes it must be set to vibrate only. Papers may not be submitted by email unless cleared with me first.

**Paper submissions**

I will not accept papers placed in my office mailbox nor under my door nor by email. Papers must be handed to me at the appropriate time and place when they are due.

**Office Hours** - Please feel free to see me at any time. Formal office hours will be:

MW 3-4pm

**PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is considered the worst academic offense. I will lead to failure in this course at the minimum. I am interested in what you have to say, not in your regurgitating what someone else says. Regurgitation is for birds.

Plagiarism is the verbatim repetition, without acknowledgment, of the writings of another author. All significant phrases, clauses, or passages, taken directly from source material must be enclosed in quotation marks and acknowledged either in the text itself or in footnotes/ endnotes. Borrowing without acknowledging the source.

Paraphrasing the thoughts of another writer without acknowledgment. Allowing any other
person or organization to prepare work which one then submits as his/her own.

**RESEARCH PAPER**

Each student will write a short 10 page research paper on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor (a list of potential topics is below). The research paper must employ at least 2 book sources, 3 professional journal sources, and 2 internet obtained sources (excluding Wikipedia).

**RESEARCH PAPER SCHEDULE**

- Research Paper Outline (first draft). February 24
- Research Paper (second draft). March 31
- Research Paper Critique. April 14
- Research Paper (final). April 23

**Topics**

- Race and politics in Brazil (historical and contemporary)
- Religion and politics
- Military and politics (particularly the Estado Novo and Military government of 1964-1990)
- Politics of land policy and land reform
- Environmental politics in Brazil
- Industrial policy (import substitution)
- Nationalism in Brazil (historical and contemporary)
- Regionalism in Brazil (federalism)
- Federalism (regionalism) vs. centralism
- Personalismo in Brazil – Getulio Vargas
- Populism
- Positivism
- Politics of indigenous peoples in Brazil
- Brazilian foreign policy
- Mercosur – trade
- Land Reform – Land Movement
- The founding of Brasilia
- Sports and politics in Brazil
- Racial democracy – race and class
- Religion – rise of Protestantism and Afro-Brazilian religion
- Brazil as a potential world power
- Brazil as a Latin American leader
- Neoliberalism in Brazil
- The Worker’s Party in Power
- Participatory Politics in Brazil
- Social Movements in Brazil