

CET Syllabus of Record



PUC-SP
COGEAE



Program: Brazilian Studies and Portuguese Language in São Paulo

Course Title: Brazilian Politics and Society

Course Code: SP/POLI 310

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Political Science / Economics, Latin American Studies, Sociology

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites/Requirements: Background in economics, politics, sociology and history.

Description

The aim of the course is to provide a better understanding of the Brazilian social fabric and its representation mechanisms, in the political sense. The survey includes the historical background of Brazilian political organization since the 1930s, which includes the discussion about the democratic and authoritarian periods throughout our history and the organization of political parties, always considering politics as a space of representation and structuring of power. The course will analyze the similarities and differences between the political systems of Brazil and the United States in areas such as federalism and the party system. Students' knowledge of American reality will be important as an exchange element and for deepening reflection.

Objectives

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand the subtleties of Brazilian politics and political arrangements in Brazil.
- Make substantive comparisons between the political processes and their respective consequences in the US and Brazil.
- Comprehend goals, arrangements, groups and political behavior in Brazil.
- By the end of the course, students are able to understand the roots and the contours of Brazilian society.

Course Requirements

The methodology of the course consists on class lectures and open discussions on the content assigned at the discretion of professor. Some of these discussions will be based on the assignments you submit individually or as a group.

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Weekly readings, ranging from 15 to 40 pages, are assigned. It is imperative that each student completes the assigned reading in a timely fashion, as this enables him/her to actively participate in class.

Class/activity attendance and active participation constitute one of the evaluation criteria for this course.

Periodical news will be sent with questions related to the course. You are expected to respond to at least four questions in detail. You may respond to more and at the end of the semester, you will submit your best four posts for grading. Review the rubrics to determine a good post.

Course Dynamics

This is a 45-hour course with afternoon presentations, readings, and guided visits. Attendance of 80% is required.

The final grade is based on overall student performance in three areas:

1. Four posts, in which the student reflects on news in light of the issues discussed in class.
2. One final paper, product of an in-depth, semester-long investigation.
3. Participation and attendance, based on the student's active presence and participation in class and other curricular activities. Special emphasis is made on the contribution of each student during the semester discussion sessions.

Assignments not turned in on the date they are due, are subject to a penalty proportionate to the delay. Plagiarism is not tolerated under any circumstance.

If due to unanticipated circumstances a student must turn in his/her assignment via email, he/she should not assume it was received until the professor acknowledges receipt.

Methods of Evaluation

The final grade is based on the overall performance of each student in three areas:

Post answers (4) 30%

Final paper 50% (research proposal 10%, actual research 40%)

Participation & attendance 20%

Primary Texts

There is no assigned text for this course. Instead, students read a selection of articles and chapters coming from academic journals, classic works on Brazilian Economy, Development, Theory and Conjuncture, magazines and online sources.

Supplementary Texts

Documentaries and various websites

Outline of Course Content

In addition to the topics listed below, two full weeks are dedicated to class presentations and open discussions at the middle and at the end of the semester. Professors are only suggestions and could be changed.

Program

1. Political overview of Brazil: from Oligarchy to "Lava Jato" – Mariana Jansen - Professora da PUC-SP
2. Oligarchy and the social and political changes at the beginning of the 20th century – Mariana Jansen - Professora da PUC-SP
3. Revolution Historical Significance of 1930 - new arrangement of power – Mariana Jansen - Professora da PUC-SP

4. Populism and Corporatism : democracy with limited participation – Mariana Jansen - Professora da PUC-SP
5. 1964: debate on historical significance of the 1964 Coup – Mariana Jansen - Professora da PUC-SP
6. Institutional Acts // preservation of Congress: controversy over attempts to maintain legitimacy in military period
7. The 1970s: social and political changes – the 1979 “amnesty”
8. Redemocratization and the 1988 Constitution
9. The last 30 years: “coalition presidentialism”
10. Visit to Legislative Assembly – São Paulo (Escola do Parlamento)
11. Federalism: scope and limits – comparing Brazil and USA
12. Political-party structure: bipartisanship and multiparty – comparing Brazil and USA
13. Democracy / National Republic – comparing Brazil and USA
14. Perspectives: Political Awareness, manifestations and “Lava Jato”: A Changing Country?

Bibliography

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