

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: CET Brazil: Social Justice & Inequality in São Paulo

Course Code / Title: (SP/INTR 360) Brazil-US Relations

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: International Relations / History, Political Science, Latin American Studies

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites / Requirements: Prior coursework in the above disciplines recommended but not required.

Description

During the 20th century, Brazilian society oscillated between democratic and authoritarian political cultures. The stark paradox is that both outlooks were characterized by promises of race equality, social integration, class evolution, economic progress, and international prominence. Political leaders such as Getúlio Vargas, Leonel Brizola, General Castello Branco, General Emilio Médici, Ulisses Guimarães, Tancredo Neves, among others, became the faces of ideological forces that operated either in tune with US interests, or in direct conflict with the directives of State Department or the National Security Council from the 1930s until the end of Cold War.

Consequently, the Brazilian Army rose as a pivotal political actor during some of the most dramatic transformations in the country's history. Since World War II, a hazy image of the US as paradigm for modernization, democracy, and the national ideal stimulated rich, multifaceted cultural expressions and consumer patterns that eventually gave Brazil an international identity. Through their decades-long interactions, these alternating democratic and authoritarian forces and values paved the way for the first authentic attempt at a political pact—as established in the 1988 Constitution—inaugurating a democratic regime unlike anything since modern Brazil's inception a hundred years prior.

Objectives

In this course, students:

- Identify the main social, racial, and economic actors and leaders that influenced the political transformations that occurred in Brazil in the 20th century, as well as their views and relations toward the US.
- Analytically engage with cultural phenomena and pop culture expressions like telenovelas, songs, comic books, and newspaper articles.
- Strengthen their ability to address and interpret historical trends in 20th century US-Latin America relations.
- Acquaint themselves with diverse resources that offer the Brazilian perspective on US relations during the past century.

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Course Requirements

Course methodology consists of class lectures, group discussions, and short videos on the content assigned at the discretion of professor. Weekly readings can be assigned as pre-class discussion material. It is imperative that each student complete the assigned reading in a timely fashion, as this enables them to actively participate in class. Attendance requirements are outlined in the CET Attendance Policy.

Students are also required to be updated on an ongoing basis about current Brazil-US relationship news. Current events are used and discussed in class as a complementary part of the historical relationship between Brazil and US, and should be integrated into the final research paper.

Grade components are as follows:

- Student seminar presentation: Each student delivers a 20-minute presentation with 30 minutes for Q&A. Presentations will be based on a previously assigned reading.
- Final paper: This 10 to 15-page essay will result from an empirical, in-depth investigation of a previously assigned issue. The content of the final paper should address the relationship between a current development issue in the Brazilian scenario and its relevance to any of the main topics discussed in class.
- Participation: Students are required to actively participate in class discussions, and demonstrate understanding of assigned readings and case studies.

Grading

The final grade is determined as follows:

- Student Seminar Presentation: 25%
- Final Paper: 45% (research proposal 10%, actual research 35%)
- Participation: 30%

Readings

Green, James N. (et alii). *The Brazil Reader: History, Culture, Politics*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2019.

Hanchard, Michael George. *Racial Politics in Contemporary Brazil*. Durham N.C.: Duke University Press, 1999.

Hixson, Walter L. *Partin the Curtain: Propaganda, Culture, and the Cold War, 1945-1961*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997.

Sarzynski, Sarah. *Revolution in the Terra do Sol: The Cold War in Brazil*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 2018.

Williams, Daryle. *Culture Wars in Brazil the First Vargas Regime, 1930-1945*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2001.

Additional Resources

Additional articles, films, videos or websites may be assigned during the course. The following supplementary readings are suggested:

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- Fico, Carlos. *O Grande Irmão – da Operação Brother Sam aos Anos de Chumbo – o Governo dos Estados Unidos e a Ditadura Militar Brasileira*. Rio de Janeiro: Civilização Brasileira, 2008.
- Gerstle, Gary. *American Crucible – Race and Nation in the Twentieth Century*. New Jersey: Princeton Press, 2001.
- Junqueira, Mary A. *Ao Sul do Rio Grande: Imaginando a América Latina em Seleções: Oeste, Wilderness e Fronteira (1942 – 1970)*. Bragança Paulista/SP: EDUSF, 2000.
- Leal, Victor Nunes. *Coronelismo, Enxada e Voto*. Rio de Janeiro: Nova Fronteira, 1997.
- McCann, Frank D. *Soldados da Pátria - História do Exército Brasileiro 1889-1937*. São Paulo: Companhia das Letras, 2007.
- Patterson, T., Clifford, J., Hagan, K. *American Foreign Policy – A History since 1900*. Lexington: D.C. Heath and Company, 1988.
- Tota, Antonio Pedro. *The Seduction of Brazil – The Americanization of Brazil During World War II*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2009.
- Villa, Marco Antônio. *Ditadura à Brasileira – 1964-1985 - A Democracia Golpeada à Esquerda e à Direita*. São Paulo: Leya, 2014.

Outline of Course Content

Topic 1 – “Lieutenantism,” Brazilian Army, and the hopes of social equalization

- The heritage of slavery statute
- The traditional oligarchies of coffee and milk (The “latte republic”)
- The late industrialization futurism on the ranks of Brazilian Army

Topic 2 – Race, class, and nationalism as opposed to Nazism: Brazilian Expeditionary Force integrated to the US 5th Army

- The “Carmen Miranda effect,” Good Neighbor Policy and the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs
- The clash of military culture: officers and enlisted/non-commissioned officers
- Italian theater of operations: forging a dangerous alliance

Topic 3 – The democratic experience: Brazilian elected governments and the actions of United States Information Agency

- Creating a better understanding: the Smith-Mundt Act and its effects in Brazil
- In defense of nation, petroleum and faith: the struggles for hegemony
- The Alliance for Progress and the exchange of knowledges (FAPESP, Fulbright, CAPES)

Topic 4 – Military dictatorship, culture and counter-culture

- The sway of newspapers from 1964 to 1975
- Soccer, Tropicalia and the perspective of race democracy

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- The censorship towards songs, comic books and telenovela

Topic 5 – 1989 Brazilian Constitution and the pact of international democracy

- The Amnesty Law and its significance for the civil and military
- The Dante de Oliveira Amendment and the rise of Labors Party (PT)
- The 1988 constituent and the new Magna Carta