

HIST 433/ES 401/MG 460
Modern Brazil
University of Montevallo
Fall 2020

Instructors: Drs. John Bawden & Eric Travis

Meets: TR 2-3:15 pm, UMOM 307

Course Credit: 3 hours

Contact: jbawden@montevallo.edu (205) 665-6179 (Bawden)

Office Hours: MW 9-1, TR 4-5 UM on Main 305 (Bawden)

Contact: etravis@montevallo.edu (205) 895-1097 (Eric's cell – use WhatsApp)

Office Hours: T/R 10:50 AM - 12:00 PM, 1:00-1:50 PM, 3:30-5:00 PM (Morgan 110) Virtual office hours via WhatsApp by appointment.

Course description

Brazil captures the imagination of all who visit it. Among the countries in the Western Hemisphere, Brazil is rivaled only by the United States in size, diversity, and importance. This course offers an overview of Brazilian history beginning with the founding of an independent state in 1822. Topics covered include slavery, regionalism, immigration, environmental degradation, economic relationships, and major themes such as race, class, and gender.

Course Objectives

1. Provide students with a broad outline of important ideas, persons, events, and trends in Brazilian history.
2. Enable students to evaluate patterns in Brazil's social structure, political economy, domestic and international business relationships, and environmental issues.
3. Students will demonstrate effective writing and critical thinking skills analyzing seminal themes, events, and influential people in Brazil's history.
4. Students will demonstrate effective oral communication skills by participating in weekly classroom discussions.

Online Instruction

Students opting for online instruction will have the same assignments as students who have opted for live instruction. Distance education students will submit a reflective paragraph about any assigned readings on the day they are discussed in class. These paragraphs constitute the student's participation grade. The midterm and final are take-home exams and will be submitted online. Lectures will be recorded and uploaded to Canvas immediately after class.

Course Evaluation

First Half (Bawden)

Writing assignments: 20%

Participation: 15%

Midterm: 15%

Second Half (Travis)

Group writing assignments: 20%

Participation: 10%

Daily impressions: 1-page reading summaries 5%

Final Exam: 15%

Course Withdrawal Deadline

The last day for students to withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" is **October 30**.

Attendance and Participation

Class attendance and preparation for discussion constitutes your participation grade.

Disclaimer

We reserve the right, after written announcement, to change course requirements or the method of assessment.

Required Texts

Laurentino Gomes, *1808: The Flight of the Emperor*

Carolina Maria de Jesus, *Child of the Dark: The Diary of Carolina Maria De Jesus*

E-reserve

All course reading materials will be available in the E-reserve file folder or as weblinks.

Disability Policy

The University of Montevallo provides equal opportunity to qualified students. If you have a disability (medical, physical, learning, psychological, etc.) and wish to request disability-related accommodations to complete course requirements, contact Disability Support Services (located in Main Hall, rear entrance; 205-665-6250). Course requirements cannot be waived, but reasonable accommodations may be provided based on disability documentation and course objectives. Accommodations cannot be made retroactively.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

To claim as one's own the ideas or words of another is plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined as the following: using the exact words of another person's work/writing without acknowledgement of your source through the use of quotation marks and correct citation/documentation; rephrasing a passage of another writer without giving proper credit; using someone else's facts or ideas without acknowledgement. At the very least, an assignment on which plagiarism or cheating has occurred will receive no credit, i.e. a "zero," and an Academic Dishonesty Incident Form concerning the incident will be kept on file in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

University of Montevallo Forum

ForUM e-mail is an official means of communication among students, faculty, and administrators at the University of Montevallo – and may be THE official means of communication between you and your instructors. If you have any questions regarding your ForUM e-mail account, you should contact Technology Services (205 665-6512).

Week 1: Introducing Brazil

Aug 25 - Course Introduction

Aug 27 - Portuguese Colonialism

Discuss Gomes, *1808: The Flight of the Emperor*, 1-56 on 8/27

Week 2: Brazil's Independence Process

9/1 - Independence

9/3 - Change & Continuity

Writing Assignment #1 Gomes, 1808: The Flight of the Emperor, due 9/3

Week 3: The Consolidation of the Brazilian Empire

9/8 - The Brazilian Monarchy

9/10 - Slavery

Discuss Frank, *Dutra's World: Wealth and Family in Nineteenth-Century Rio de Janeiro*, 15-69 on 9/10

Week 4: The Undoing of the Monarchy

9/15 - The Paraguayan War (1865-1870)

9/17 - Fall of the Monarchy

Discuss Bawden, *Latin American Soldiers*, 90-109 on 9/17

Week 5: The First Republic and its Discontents

9/22 - The Old Republic

9/24 – WWI

Watch: Footage of Lampião

Week 6: Getúlio Vargas and WWII

9/29 - Getúlio Vargas & the Estado Novo

10/1 – WWII & Urban poverty

Watch: US Government Newsreel, “Brazil at War”

Discuss: De Jesus, *Child of the Dark*, 17-45 on 10/1

Week 7: Industrialization, Urban Poverty, and the Cold War

10/6 - Revolution and Counterrevolution

10/8 - Military Rule, 1964-1985

Watch: first half of *Four Days in September*

Writing Assignment #2, De Jesus, *Child of the Dark* due 10/8

Week 8: Cold War Dictatorship and Democratization

10/13 – Dictatorship and post-dictatorship

10/15 - Discuss Bawden, *Latin American Soldiers*, 114-121

Take home midterm due 10/18

Week 9: Brazil is burning

10/20 – Watch *Island of Flowers* (<https://vimeo.com/53862971>); Read and discuss:

1. *Amazon fires created a smoke eclipse in the skies above Brazil's largest city, 2,000 miles away* (<https://www.businessinsider.com/amazon-fires-eclipse-sun-above-sao-paulo-brazil-2019-8>);
2. *Parts of the Amazon rainforest are on fire — and smoke can be spotted from space* (<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/amazon-wildfire-parts-of-amazon-rainforest-on-fire-smoke-seen-from-space-2019-08-20/>);
3. Brazil socio-geographic overview (<https://open.lib.umn.edu/worldgeography/chapter/6-3-brazil/>);
4. *Climate Change, Migration, and Conflict in the Amazon and the Andes* (Pages 17-40 from <https://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/SouthAmericaClimateMigration.pdf>)

10/22 – Dependency Theory, World Systems Theory, Modernization Theory:

Watch British A level videos

1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNEh_WRvPQw&feature=youtu.be (Dependency Theory)
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3i6KmoHQgY&feature=youtu.be> (World Systems Theory)
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79gCqjl6ihQ&feature=youtu.be> (Then & Now: World-Systems Theory, Dependency Theory and Global Inequality)

Read and discuss:

1. *Aid in reverse: how poor countries develop rich countries* (https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2017/jan/14/aid-in-reverse-how-poor-countries-develop-rich-countries?CMP=fb_gu)
2. *The Open Veins of Latin America* – excerpts (provided)
 - a. Lust for Gold, Lust for Silver (pages 49-58)
 - b. King Sugar and Other Agricultural Monarchs (pages 59-102)
 - c. The Invisible Sources of Power (pages 134-139, 153-162)
 - d. The Contemporary Structure of Plunder (pages 205-243)

Week 10: International Institutions

10/27 – Watch and discuss:

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKnhcWhtgC8> (*The IMF in Brazil in the late 1990s*);
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYCH1YIncxc> (*IMF & World Bank are weapons of war, by John Pilger*);
3. <https://peopleoverprofit.online/infographics-how-the-world-bank-group-facilitates-the-corporate-capture-of-development-2nd-of-series-on-the-world-bank/>;
4. <http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/how-the-world-bank-facilitates-burning-in-the-amazon/>;
5. *Boulevard to Broken Dreams*, part 1 (Wade - provided)

10/29 – Watch in class: *Waste Land* (2010)

1. Optional readings - *Latin America: Limits to Alternative Economic Policies* (Vidal);
2. *Brazil's Discourse on the Environment in the International Arena, 1972-1992* (Barros)

Week 11: Socio-economic geography of Brazil – favelas and periferios

11/3 – Read and discuss:

1. *The economic geography of race in the New World: Brazil, 1500-2000*. (Bucciferro);
2. *Favelas in Rio de Janeiro, Past and Present* (<https://library.brown.edu/create/fivecenturiesofchange/chapters/chapter-9/favelas-in-rio-de-janeiro-past-and-present/>);
3. *Favela Favela: Four Decades of Living on the Edge in Rio De Janeiro* (Perlman, Chapters 1, 6, 10).

11/5 – Read and discuss:

1. *Changing Narratives of Race and Environment in the 19th and Early-20th Century Brazilian Amazon* (Espelt-Bombin & Harris)

Week 12: Securing the Frontiers and Resources – Brasilia, the Amazon and the Cerrado

Writing assignment due 11/11: Macro theories of Socio-Economics Comparison

11/10 – Read and discuss:

1. *The extraordinary city built in 41 months – and the forgotten man behind it* (Leadbeater); *Inside Brazil's 'cautionary tale' for utopian urbanists* (<https://www.curbed.com/2019/6/7/18657121/brasil-brazil-urban-planning-architecture-design>);
2. *From nationalism to global climate change: analysis of the historical evolution of environmental governance in the Brazilian Amazon* (Bidone & Kovacic);
3. *Brazil using coronavirus to cover up assaults on Amazon, warn activists* (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/06/brazil-using-coronavirus-to-cover-up-assaults-on-amazon-warn-activists>);
4. *Brazil minister calls for the Amazon to be monetised* (<https://www.ft.com/content/f791bbc6-c2c3-11e9-a8e9-296ca66511c9>);
5. *Soy boom devours Brazil's tropical savanna* (<https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/brazil-deforestation/>);
6. Optional Reading: *Framing frontier governance through territorial processes in the Brazilian Amazon* (Otsuki)

11/12 – Read and discuss:

1. *Brazil: Rainforest pays the price for the country's crisis* (<https://www.ft.com/content/971f03aa-f9e0-11e7-9b32-d7d59aace167>);
2. *Investors boycott Brazil over Amazon deforestation concerns* (<https://www.ft.com/content/6e8c91b6-e46a-11e9-b8e0-026e07cbe5b4>);
3. *A sustainable approach to the beauty business* (<https://www.strategy-business.com/article/A-sustainable-approach-to-the-beauty-business?gko=065a2>);
4. *Amazon deforestation accelerates under Jair Bolsonaro* (<https://www.ft.com/content/d4920846-b527-11e9-8cb2-799a3a8cf37b>);
5. *What's Next for Brazil's Cerrado, Deforested Focus of Booming Agriculture?* (<https://insideclimatenews.org/covering-ground/20140520/whats-next-brazils-cerrado-deforested-focus-booming-agriculture>);
6. *Saving the Amazon has come at the cost of Cerrado deforestation: study* (<https://news.mongabay.com/2018/11/saving-the-amazon-has-come-at-the-cost-of-cerrado-deforestation-study/>);
7. *Por dentro da destruição secreta da grande savana do Brasil* (https://brasil.elpais.com/brasil/2018/03/21/politica/1521648714_928895.html)

Week 13: Agroindustry and Land Distribution

11/17 – Read and discuss

1. *Places of Agribusiness: Displacement, Replacement, and Misplacement in Mato Grosso, Brazil* (Ioris)

11/19 - Read and discuss:

1. *The political economy of land struggle in Brazil under Workers' Party governments* (Sauer & Meszaros)
2. Optional Reading: *Evolution of Land Use in the Brazilian Amazon: From Frontier Expansion to Market Chain Dynamics* (Soler, Verburg & Alves)

Week 14: Commodities and Hydroelectric power (and Thanksgiving)

11/24 – Read and discuss

1. *The ambiguous stance of Brazil as a regional power: piloting a course between commodity-based surpluses and national development.* (Sauer, Balestro, Schneider)
2. *Dam déjà vu: 2 Brazil mining waste disasters in 3 years raise alarms*
(<https://news.mongabay.com/2019/02/dam-deja-vu-2-brazil-mining-waste-disasters-in-3-years-raise-alarms/>);
3. *Pollution, illness, threats and murder: is this Amazon factory the link?*
(<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/mar/16/brazil-pollution-amazon-aluminium-plant-norwegian>);
4. <https://www.americanscientist.org/blog/the-long-view/timeline-of-the-controversial-belo-monte-megadam-in-brazil>;
5. <https://nacla.org/article/brazil%E2%80%99s-native-peoples-and-belo-monte-dam-case-study>

Week 15: The 21st century

Writing Assignment due 12/1: Why shouldn't Brazil develop the Amazon and Cerrado?

12/1 – Read and discuss

1. “More Brazilian Than Cachaça”: Brazilian Sugar-Based Ethanol Development in the Twentieth Century. (Eaglin)
2. The Dismantling of Brazilian Democracy: International Capital and Rentier Elites (Lima & Rocha)

12/3 – discuss and debrief the course