

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
Semester I, 1985-86

History 573

Twentieth Century Brazil

Thomas E. Skidmore

Course Description:

In this colloquium we will look at Brazil and some of its most important features in the twentieth century. Emphasis will be on understanding how this largest of Latin American countries managed to create the largest industrial park in the Third World while thirty-five million Brazilians still live in grinding poverty in the Northeast. What kind of society does "late industrialization" produce? What has happened to the traditional institutions of authority, such as the Church, the military and the landowners? What of the newly emerging sectors, such as the middle class and urban industrial labor? What is the effect of foreign investment and foreign trade? Is Brazil's Amazon frontier an answer to its economic or population problems? How has the growth of the modern economy affected the race relations--long thought to be one of Brazil's assets? What is the role of the U.S. in Brazil's rapid rise? Will the present semi-pluralist political system last? What happened to the guerillas? Will Brazil's political culture allow it to escape the depths of civil war and repression wracking most of the Third World? Not least, what can Brazil's vibrant culture tell us about where the country has come from and where it's going?

Class Schedule:

- Sept. 9: Introduction and Organizational Session
- Sept. 16: Discovering Brazil
- Reading: Jorge Amado, Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands (New York, 1969)
- Sept. 23: Historical Background to Contemporary Brazil (bring to class your copy of Wesson & Fleischer)
- Reading: Thomas E. Skidmore & Peter H. Smith, Modern Latin America (New York, 1984), 46-69; 145-186 (in Xerox packet)
- Skidmore, "From Descompressao to Albertura: The Decline of Brazilian Authoritarianism, 1973-1982," (1983) (in Xerox packet)
- Sept. 30: Brazilian Politics Since 1945 (bring to class your copy of Baer)
- Reading: Robert Wesson & David V. Fleischer, Brazil in Transition (New York, 1983), entire book
- Oct. 7: The Emergence of the Brazilian Economy Before 1964
- Reading: Werner Baer, The Brazilian Economy: Growth and Development 2nd edition (New York, 1983), 3-151

- Oct. 14:       The Brazilian Economy Since 1964:  Miracles and Miseries
- Reading:  Baer, The Brazilian Economy, 199-237; 287-331
- Oct. 21:       Foreign Actors in the Brazilain Economy:  Imperialism?  Dependency?  
Benign Effects of the Law of Comparative Advantage?
- Reading:  Baer, The Brazilian Economy, 155-198
- Peter Evans, Dependent Development:  The Alliance of  
Multinational State and Local Capital in Brazil  
(Princeton, 1979), 274-329 (in Xerox packet)
- Oct. 28:       Urbanization:  Favelas, People and Politics
- Reading:  Janice E. Perlman, The Myth of Marginality:  Urban  
Poverty and Politics in Rio de Janeiro (Berkeley, 1976)
- Nov.  4:       Churches and Religions
- Reading:  Diana Brown, "Umbanda and Class Relations in Brazil,"  
in Maxine L. Margolis & William E. Carter, eds.,  
Brazil:  Anthropological Perspectives (New York, 1979),  
270-304 (in Xerox packet)
- Rowan Ireland, "Catholic Base Communities, Spiritualist  
Groups and the Deepening of Democracy in Brazil," The  
Wilson Center:  Latin American Program:  Working Papers  
(Jan., 1983) (in Xerox packet)
- Warren Hoge, "Macumba:  Brazil's Pervasive Cults,"  
New York Times Magazine, August 21, 1983 (in Xerox  
packet)
- Nov. 11:       Labor and Labor Movements in the Urban Sector
- Reading:  Kenneth Mericle, "Corporatist Control of the Working  
Class:  Authoritarian Brazil Since 1964," in James  
Malloy, ed., Authoritarianism and Corporatism in  
Latin America (Pittsburgh, 1977), 303-338 (in Xerox  
packet)
- John Humphrey, Capitalist Control and Workers' Struggle  
in the Brazilian Auto Industry (Princeton, 1982),  
208-245 (in Xerox packet)
- Jose Alvaro Moises, "What is the Strategy of the 'New  
Syndicalism?'  Resurgence of the Brazilian Labor Move-  
ment:  The Strike of 1980," Latin American Perspectives,  
No. 35 (Fall, 1982), 55-73 (in Xerox packet)

Nov. 18: Race Relations in Brazil: Myths and Realities

Reading: Carl N. Degler, Neither Black Nor White: Slavery and Race Relations in Brazil and the United States (New York, 1971) entire book

Thomas E. Skidmore, "Race and Class in Brazil: Historical Perspectives," in Luso-Brazilian Review (Summer, 1983), 104-118 (in Xerox packet)

Thomas Saunders, "Racial Discrimination and Black Consciousness in Brazil," American Universities Field Staff Report (South America: 1981), no. 42 (in Xerox packet)

Nov. 25: The Amazon: Old Inhabitants and New Settlers

Reading: Norman Gall, "Letter from Rondonia," American Universities Field Staff Report, 5 parts (South America: 1978), nos. 9-13 (in Xerox packet)

Suzanne Williams, "Land Rights and the Meaning of Identity: Official Indian Policy in Brazil," Journal of Latin American Studies, vol. 15 (May, 1983), 137-161 (in Xerox packet)

Dec. 2: Brazil-U.S. Relations

Reading: (Reread) Wesson & Fleischer, Brazil in Transition, 147-166

"U.S.-Brazil Relations," Hearing Before the Subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives - 97th Congress, 2nd Session, July 14, 1982 (in Xerox packet)

Dec. 9: Open: Wrap-up or Additional Topic

Course Assignments:

- 1) Two papers of 5-8 pages, based on the required reading.
- 2) One paper of 8-10 pages, involving the use of extra reading (usually the equivalent of about one to three books), on a topic of special interest but related to the themes of the course.
- 3) Two class presentations.

To be successful, this course will require well-informed and thoughtful participation by everyone. That means keeping up with the reading and speaking up (if you are reticent) or listening more (if you are garrulous).

Grading:

The two shorter papers will count 25%; the longer paper 25% and class participation, 50%.

Office Hours:

Monday, 1:30-2:45

5223 Humanities (263-1863)