This lecture course offers an introduction to the history of Brazil from approximately 1500 until 2017. It presents an overview, proceeding roughly in chronological order, of successive stages of Brazil’s history, from the early phases of European colonization through Brazil’s emergence as an independent nation in the early 1800s to its rise as South America’s largest economy and most populous country, though now in the throes of a political crisis. Among the topics and themes addressed include: slavery, the slave trade, and abolition; political transitions (at various moments) from colony to nation, monarchy to republic, and dictatorship to democracy; environmental degradation and conservation; industrialization; urbanization; foreign policy; inequality; race and racism; immigration; and many additional vital, gripping topics and themes.

Statement of Learning Goals: At the end of the course, students will have become familiar with the history of South America’s largest nation, opening up the possibility of further study of Latin America; they will be adept at analyzing a range of primary and secondary texts; and they will be able to use their detailed historical knowledge in timed and untimed essays.

Instructor: Prof. Gabriel Paquette (gabriel.paquette@jhu.edu)
Classroom: Hodson 210
Office Hours: Monday, 9:15-10 A.M. & Wednesday 1:30-2:45 P.M. in Gilman 322.
*Check Blackboard for exceptions/changes to Office Hours schedule.

Teaching Assistants:
Mr. Álvaro Caso Bello (alvarocaso@jhu.edu)
Mr. Jeremy Fradkin (jfradki4@jhu.edu)

Assessment:
2 In-Class Mid-Term Exams: 20% each
1 Final Take-Home Exam: 40%
Attendance and Participation in Section: 20%

*No attendance is taken at lectures; however, the lectures contain a great deal of material beyond that contained in the course texts. *Lecture content will be examined.*
Week 1
INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

August 31: Welcome/Introduction/Course Logistics

Reading: Skidmore, Introduction, pp. 1-8; BBC; New Yorker

Week 2
BEFORE “BRAZIL”: THE EARLY MODERN PORTUGUESE EMPIRE

September 4: LABOR DAY/NO CLASSES @ JHU
September 6:

Reading: Russell-Wood (Portuguese Atlantic).

Week 3
“DISCOVERY”, SETTLEMENT, GOVERNMENT AND EARLY COLONIAL SOCIETY

September 11:
September 13:

Reading: Skidmore, Ch. 1, pp. 9-18; Schwartz, 1.1, 2.1, 3.1; BR, pp. 25-32;

Week 4
SUGAR AND SLAVERY: THE MAKING OF COLONIAL BRAZIL’S ECONOMY

September 18:
September 20:

Reading: Skidmore, Ch. 1, pp. 19-24; Ch. 2, pp. 29-40; Gates; Schwartz, 6.1, 6.4

Week 5
BRAZIL IN THE SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH CENTURY ATLANTIC WORLD

September 25: NO CLASS (50-minute video lecture on Blackboard)
September 27:

Reading: Russell-Wood (Gold Cycle); Mansuy-Diniz Silva; Skidmore, Ch. 1, pp. 24-28;
Schwartz, 11.1; BR, pp. 45-51
Week 6
CONFLICTS, CONSPIRACIES, AND THE INDEPENDENCE OF BRAZIL (C.1780-1840)

October 2:
October 4:

Reading: Skidmore, Ch. 3, pp. 41-53; Maxwell; Chasteen and Chambers; BR, pp. 56-57, 63-64.

Week 7
COFFEE, WAR, AND NATIONAL CONSOLIDATION IN THE AGE OF EMPEROR DOM PEDRO II: THE SECOND EMPIRE (C. 1840-1890)

October 9:
October 11:

Reading: Skidmore, Ch. 3, pp. 53-70; BR, pp. 76-86; BR, pp. 131-134.

Week 8

October 16: MID-TERM EXAM I
October 18:

Reading: Skidmore, Ch. 4 (all); BR, pp. 143-145.

Week 9
THE BRAZILIAN REPUBLIC

October 23:
October 25:

Reading: Skidmore, Ch. 5, pp. 97-108; Burke and Humphrey; BR, pp. 110-12.

Week 10
THE REVOLUTION OF 1930, THE VARGAS REGIME (1930-45), AND THE DEMOCRATIC EXPERIMENT (1945-64)

October 30:
November 1:

Reading: Skidmore, Ch. 5, pp. 108-125; Skidmore Ch. 6, pp. 126-145; Leite Lopes; BR, pp. 156-159, 186-189, 204-205, 222-224, 327-330.
Week 11
FROM MILITARY DICTATORSHIP TO DEMOCRACY

November 6:
November 8:

Reading: Skidmore, Chs. 6 (pp. 145-152), 7 & 8 (all); BR, pp. 238-240, 382-383, 386-390, 454-461.

Week 12
BRAZIL IN THE AGE OF CARDOSO, LULA AND DILMA

November 13: MID-TERM EXAM II
November 15:

Reading: McCann, Intro, Chs. 1, 4 & 5; Green; Anderson; BR, pp. 280-288.

Week 13
THANKSGIVING/NO CLASSES @ JHU

November 20:
November 22:

Week 14
KEY THEMES I: FOREIGN RELATIONS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

November 27:
November 29:

Reading: Bethell; McCann, Ch. 3; “Chico Mendes: Peaceful, Green Warrior” and “Legacy of Chico Mendes”; Mendes.

Week 15
KEY THEMES II: INEQUALITY AND THE CURRENT POLITICAL CRISIS

December 4:
December 6:

Reading: McCann, Ch. 2; BR, pp. 264-267; Vidal Luna and Klein; “Wasteland” (optional); The Economist; Foreign Affairs; The Intercept.
Take-Home Exam Distributed: November 27

Take-Home Exam Due: At the beginning of what would have been the in-class exam time, to be determined by the JHU Registrar.

REQUIRED BOOKS
(Available from the JHU Barnes & Noble, Amazon.com and other retailers; several copies also available on Reserve in the MSEL, though don’t count on access to them)


REQUIRED ARTICLES, BOOK CHAPTERS, AND VIDEOS

1. Available on “E-Reserve” via link on MSEL/Blackboard


2. Available from Blackboard “Content” Section

BBC, "Brazil Corruption Scandals" (July 2017)

The Economist, “Brazil's Fall” (2016)

Foreign Affairs, “How to Fix Brazil: Breaking an Addiction to Bad Government” (2016)

The Intercept, “Brazil’s Congress Protects Bribe-drenched President, Finalizing Elites’ Two-Year Plot” (August 2017)

Andrée Mansuy-Diniz Silva, “Imperial Re-Organization 1750-1808”, pp. 244-262

Chico Mendes, Fight for the Forest (Chico Mendes in His Own Words) (London: Latin American Bureau, 1989), pp. 71-84.

New Yorker, “The Most Important Criminal Conviction in Brazil’s History” (July 2017)


VIDEO: “Chico Mendes: Gentle, Green Warrior” (9 mins.).

VIDEO: “The Legacy of Chico Mendes” (7 mins.).

FILM (Optional): “Wasteland” (90 mins.).
A Note on Exams and Assessment:

The In-Class Mid-Term Exams and the Take-Home Final Exam will involve a combination of short-answer ID questions, maps, and longer essay questions. You will be able to choose among several questions. The Mid-Term Exams will be taken in “Blue Books” during the class period and you may not consult your notes/books etc. The Take-Home Final may be submitted via e-mail to your TA by the due date/time of what would have been the final exam slot scheduled by the Registrar. You may use your notes, books etc. for the Take-Home Final but not for the In-Class Mid-Term Exams.

The exams test material from lectures as well as the assigned readings.

The TAs will grade the exams in consultation with the instructor. The instructor is the final arbiter of all grades, and you may assume that the grade you receive on an exam has been approved by the instructor, even if the comments you receive are exclusively those of the TA.

Mid-Term I will cover material from Weeks 2-6.

Mid-Term II will cover material from Weeks 7-10.

The Take-Home Exam will be cumulative, but at least 50% of it will cover Weeks 11-15.

Comprehensive instructions/guidance will be provided at least 14 days prior to each exam.

A General Note:

The instructor and the TAs are eager for you to succeed in this course. Please avail yourselves of the regularly scheduled office hours. Please confer with the TAs concerning all logistical matters related to the course. The instructor greatly prefers face-to-face meetings during office hours to extended exchanges over e-mail.