Description: This course presents a broad overview of the main questions on Brazilian politics and society since the transition to democracy in 1985. It focuses on the evolution of democratic political institutions and processes, state-society relations, and major social and demographic changes and their impact on the political system throughout the last three decades.

The course introduces is divided into four sections: A) Democratic transition and consolidation; B) Political Institutions: presidentialism, federalism, parties and party systems; participatory institutions; C) State, policy and society; D) Partisanship, social cleavages and protest;

Objectives

Course Requirements

This is an online course involving both synchronous and asynchronous activities.

Course methodology consists of class lectures and open discussions using the Microsoft Teams and Moodle platforms.

Weekly readings of up to four articles/book chapters are assigned as required course tasks. It is imperative that each student complete the assigned reading in a timely fashion, as this enables them to actively participate in class. All students must present a brief analysis of the readings each week at the beginning of class. If the class size is too large, students will alternate between weekly written (maximum 250 words) and oral presentations (approximately 3 minutes). To pass the course, students will be expected to present their analyses of the readings in at least 75% of the classes (preferably all of them).
Policies:

- While we encourage Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking students to speak to us in their native language during office hours, we kindly ask you to refrain from doing so while inside the classroom since your questions, comments or concerns may be of relevance to other non-Spanish or non-Portuguese speaking students.

- Students are expected to have completed the required reading before the class.

- Attendance and active participation in live classes taught through Microsoft Teams is required. Because we only have 14 classes, absence will substantially detract from your learning experience (and from your participation grade). Special situations involving illness, family emergencies and technical difficulties will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

- You will be required to participate of asynchronous debates using Moodle’s forum resource, in addition to completing two major written assignments (and a few minor ones) throughout the course.

Assignments and grading:

Note on the grading system used at the University of Brasília

Student coursework is evaluated by letter grades, which are assigned a value based on a 10-point scale.

SS - 9,0 to 10,0
MS - 7,0 to 8,9
MM - 5,0 to 6,9
MI - 3,0 to 4,9
II - 0,1 to 2,9
SR - 0 (zero) or less than 75% attendance.

Students must obtain a grade equal or superior to 5 to pass (MM).

1. Dialogue essays.

Students will be required to write short essays (maximum 700 - 1000 words) at the end of three of the four sections of the course. The essays should present an argument that connects authors and themes from at least two classes in the section. Each essay is due one week after the completion of the respective section.

2. Final Paper

The short final paper (Max 6000 words) should explore an issue or theme related to Brazilian politics since 1985 in light of the material presented in the course. 1 page proposals for final papers will be presented by (a date approximately ½ through the course) and approved by the professors. Although the proposal will not be graded, students who do not present a paper proposal will not be approved in the course.
Grading

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dialogue Essay 1</th>
<th>15%</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dialogue Essay 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dialogue Essay 3</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
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Course Schedule and Readings (Subject to Modification)

Compulsory readings are marked (*).

Week 1. Introduction to the course

A. Democratic Transition and Consolidation

Week 2. Transition and consolidation


Week 3. Social movements and protest in the transition period


### B. Political Institutions

**Week 4. Presidents and Legislatures**


**Week 5. Federalism, bicameralism and subnational politics**


**Week 6. Political parties and party systems**


**Week 7. Participatory institutions**


C. State, policy and society

Week 8. Bureaucracy and Bureaucrats


Week 9. Actors, Ideas and policy processes


**Week 10. Social movements, policy-making and institutional activism**


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D. Partisanship, social cleavages and protest

**Week 11: Partisanship and antipartisanship**


**Week 12: The emerging religious divide**


**Week 13: Class cleavages, ideology and voting behavior**


Week 14. Polarization and protest since 2013


* Dias, Tayrine; von Bülow, Marisa; Gobbi, Danniel; Forthcoming, “Populist Framing Mechanisms and The Rise of Right-wing Activism in Brazil.” Latin American Politics and Society.