Instructor: Seth Garfield  
Office: SRH 3.104A  
sgarfield@mail.utexas.edu  
Office Hours, TH, 2-4 or by appointment

Course Description

This course examines the history of Latin America’s largest and most populous nation, shedding light on Brazil’s political history, economic development, and cultural formation. The course looks at principal topics in postcolonial Brazilian history: Independence and Empire, slavery and post-emancipation society; formation of racial, class, and gender identities; urbanization and industrialization; regionalism and frontier expansion; and bureaucratic-authoritarianism. We begin with the fundamental premise that nation-states are sociocultural constructions whose inclusiveness, legitimacy, and viability vary from one historical moment to another. The challenges to nation-building that confronted Brazil—with its oligarchic, patriarchal, and slavocratic heritage, economic "underdevelopment," multiethnic population, and pronounced regionalism—are the matters to be interrogated through the readings.

As a graduate course in history, we will explore not only events and processes in the past but focus closely on questions of argumentation, evidence, and historiography. Students from other backgrounds are encouraged to approach the course material with their own research questions and methodologies but should be attuned to the codes of the historical discipline.

Readings

Emilia Viotti da Costa, The Brazilian Empire: Myths and Histories  
Zephyr Frank, Dutra’s World: Wealth and Family in Nineteenth-Century Rio de Janeiro  
João José Reis, Death is a Festival: Funeral Rites and Rebellion in Nineteenth-Century Brazil  
Peter Beattie, The Tribute of Blood: Army, Honor, Race and Nation in Brazil, 1864-1945  
Camillia Cowling, Conceiving Freedom: Women of Color, Gender, and the Abolition of Slavery in Havana and Rio de Janeiro  
Joel Wolfe, Autos and Progress: The Brazilian Search for Modernity  
Bryan McCann, Hello, Hello Brazil: Popular Music in the Making of Modern Brazil  
Paulina Alberto, Terms of Inclusion: Black Intellectuals in Twentieth-Century Brazil  
Brodwyn Fischer, A Poverty of Rights: Citizenship and Inequality in Twentieth-


Century Rio de Janeiro
Susan Besse, *Restructuring Patriarchy: The Modernization of Gender Inequality in Brazil, 1914-1940*
Durval Muniz de Albuquerque, *The Invention of the Brazilian Northeast*
Seth Garfield, *In Search of the Amazon: Brazil, the United States, and the Nature of a Region*

All books will also be on 24-hour reserve at the Benson Library.

**Requirements**

Over the course of the semester, students will write ten book reviews (2-3 pp. each). The essay should highlight the factual, methodological, and historiographical contributions of the text. *Students are strongly encouraged not to read on-line book reviews of the assigned texts; the assignments are designed to allow students to hone critical thinking skills and are undermined by reliance on other scholars’ critiques.* Students are encouraged to peruse book reviews of other texts in historical journals to get a better sense of content and format. Students who need to miss class are required to submit the required book review on or before the subsequent class meeting.

Each week, one student will present the assigned reading in class. The student should summarize the key points of the book, including questions of methodology, argumentation, and historiography. The student will also be expected to direct class discussion after the termination of the presentation by raising pertinent questions.

The final paper (8 pp.) will consist of a comparative/historiographical essay that examines at least four texts to analyze divergences or overlaps in the treatment of a given historical theme. *The selected topic may be one of those covered in class (and may make use of the required reading as one of the four texts) Students are encouraged to discuss their topics with me in advance.*

The use of laptops or hand-held electronic equipment is not permitted in seminar.

**Schedule**

I. Postcolonial State Formation

Jan. 22  
*Independence and Empire (1822-1889) (No book review due)*

Emilia Viotti da Costa, *The Brazilian Empire: Myths and Histories* (excluding chapters 6, 9 and 10)

II. Slavery, Race, Gender, and Nation in Brazil

Jan. 29 Zephyr Frank, *Dutra’s World*
Da Costa, *The Brazilian Empire*, Chapter 6

Feb. 5 João Reis, *Death is a Festival: Funeral Rites and Rebellion in Nineteenth-Century Brazil*


Feb. 19 Peter Beattie, *The Tribute of Blood: Army, Honor, Race and Nation in Brazil, 1864-1945*

Feb. 26 Paulina Alberto, *Terms of Inclusion: Black Intellectuals in Twentieth-Century Brazil*
Da Costa, *The Brazilian Empire*, Chapter 9

III. Urbanization, Industrialization, Social Inequality

March 5 Joel Wolfe, *Autos and Progress: The Brazilian Search for Modernity*


March 19 Spring Break


April 2 Susan Besse, *Restructuring Patriarchy: The Modernization of Gender Inequality in Brazil, 1914-1940*
Da Costa, Chapter 10

April 9 Bryan McCann, *Hello, Hello Brazil: Popular Music in the Making of Modern Brazil*

IV. Region: Northeast and the Legal Amazon
April 16  Durval Muniz de Albuquerque, *The Invention of the Brazilian Northeast*

April 23  Student Presentations

April 30  Seth Garfield, *In Search of the Amazon: Brazil, the United States, and the Nature of a Region*

**Military Brazil**

May 7  Victoria Langland, Speaking of Flowers: *Student Movements and the Making and Remembering of 1968 in Military Brazil.*

May 14  Final Papers Due by 5pm