

A&S 138 ■ Brazil: Continental Country
SYLLABUS

Autumn Quarter, 2008 ■ 3:30-4:18 pm ■ Thursdays
Ackerman Library, 600 Ackerman Road, Room 5826 (2nd floor)



Flag of Brazil



Brazil and Its Regions



Brazil and South America

INSTRUCTOR: Edward A. Riedinger

Phone: 614-688-8797

E-mail: riedinger.4@osu.edu

Office hours: by appointment

ACKERMAN LIBRARY: CLASSROOM LOCATION

The Ackerman Library is served by the campus bus marked "Library/Buckeye Village." The bus leaves riders at the main entrance to the building. To reach the classroom, proceed straight ahead from the entrance to the opposite side of the room. Take the elevator or stairs to the second floor. On entering the floor, proceed straight ahead to the first door on your left. At the entrance on the first floor, there is a lounge with food and beverage machines. The area is also wired so that you can operate a laptop in it and use it as a study hall. The University Village shopping mall is two blocks from the library.

[map of ackerman Library in relation to OSU campus](#)

[map of ackerman Library complex](#)

CLASS E-LIST:

smythe.1@osu.edu, smythe.2@osu.edu,....

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

BRIC countries refer to the four most intensely developing regional powers in the world: Brazil, Russia, India, and China. Occupying half of South America, Brazil is the largest economy in Latin America and the most dynamic in the Southern Hemisphere. The largest tropical country, Brazil subdivides into five geo-cultural regions, which themselves rival many neighboring countries. This course concentrates on

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describing these regions, the causes of their development, and the prospects of Brazil's development as a whole. The goals of the course are to:

- 1) Know the geographic, demographic, economic, and socio-cultural aspects that distinguish Brazil as a developing region of Latin America and the world
- 2) Obtain experience engaging in objective, critical discussion on the country
- 3) Understand the factors that have made Brazil part of the phenomenon of BRIC countries.

SOURCES FOR CLASS

The principal text for this class is *Brazil: A Country Guide (BCG)*, available online at <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/brtoc.html>. Other documents are stored at the class web site http://library.osu.edu/sites/latinamerica/indxclas_II_geo.htm. There are no materials to buy. All class materials are electronically accessible.

GRADE

The course is pass/fail. To pass a student must attend and participate in eight of the ten classes (80 percent). Attendance is taken at each class and participation is noted. Participation means that a student makes relevant comments regarding assigned readings or tasks. Moreover, participation includes completing map exercises and giving a short oral presentation (with visuals).

CLASSES (ten class sessions; one hour length, once per week (one credit, S/U grade); course also requires regular outside reading for class preparation).

Class 1

Orientation to Class Procedures.

Use of online class resources. Clarification of terms: Latin, South, Central, Middle America, Western Hemisphere, the Americas, tropics, sub-tropics.

Viewing: Video panorama of the regions of Brazil

Readings: Chapter two of *BCG* and table of comparative data for Brazil in relation to Latin America and world (updated version posted at course web site).

Exercise: Outline on map the regions of Brazil

Class 2

North Region

Discuss economic and socio-cultural distinctions of region from *BCG* reading.

Exercise: Identify on map the states and capital cities of the region. Selected students will lead oral presentations (with visuals) on the cities: Manaus and Belém.

Class 3

Northeast Region

Discuss economic and socio-cultural distinctions of region from *BCG* reading.

Exercise: Identify on map the states and capital cities of the region. Selected students will lead oral presentations (with visuals) on the cities: Fortaleza, Recife, and Salvador.

Class 4

Southeast Region

Discuss economic and socio-cultural distinctions of region from *BCG* reading.

Exercise: Identify on map the states and capital cities of the region. Selected students will lead oral presentations (with visuals) on the cities: São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Belo Horizonte.

Class 5

Center-West Region

Discuss economic and socio-cultural distinctions of region from *BCG* reading.

Exercise: Identify on map the states and capital cities of the region. Selected students will lead oral presentations (with visuals) on the cities: Brasília and Goiânia.

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Class 6

South Region

Discuss economic and socio-cultural distinctions of region from *BCG* reading.

Exercise: Identify on map the states and capital cities of the region. Selected students will lead oral presentations (with visuals) on the cities: Curitiba, Florianópolis, and Porto Alegre. (Note: Oral presentations presume an enrollment of 13 students. Cities selected will ultimately depend on final class enrollment.)

Class 7

Origins of Brazilian Population

Reading: Chapter one of *BCG*.

Exercise: Map tracing migrations of Asians, Europeans, and Africans to eastern South America.

Class 8

Cultural Distinctions

Reading: Web sites and video clips on martial art, *capoeira*, and spiritist religion, *candomblé*

Class 9

Where is Brazil Now Economically and Politically?

Reading: Chapter four of *BCG* with recent updates

Class 10

Is Brazil the "Country of the Future"?

Open debate, each student responding.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

"Academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations, quizzes, reports, term papers, etc. All instances of alleged academic misconduct will be appropriately reported. Further information on misconduct is available in the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp).

DISABILITY SERVICES

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

BACKGROUND of INSTRUCTOR

Edward A. "Ted" Riedinger, MLIS (Berkeley), MA, PhD (Chicago) is a tenured full professor and head of the Latin America, Hispanic, Spanish, and Portuguese Library Collection at OSU; an adjunct professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and the Department of History; and was recently a visiting scholar at the Centre for Brazilian Studies of St. Antony's College, Oxford University. Prof. Riedinger lived in Brazil for nearly two decades and is the author of numerous books and articles, in English and Portuguese, on the country. For further background see: <http://library.osu.edu/sites/latinamerica/CVEdwardARiedinger.htm>

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