



**University  
of Victoria**

*Department of Geography*

**GEOG388: Regional Geography Brazil  
Spring 2018**

Exuberant natural and cultural landscapes,  
social movements, grassroots innovations  
and land of carnival.



**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Jutta Gutberlet

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**Lectures:** Monday & Thursday 2:30 - 3:50 PM

**Location:** DSB C128

**Office Hours:** Monday 1:00-2:30 PM or by appointment

## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

Brazil's physical and human Geography are shaped by ecological diversity and socio-cultural complexity. Natural environments such as the Amazon, Pantanal, coastal mountain rainforest and Cerrado savannah regions are among the richest ecosystems on the planet. Yet, resource extraction, agroindustry and urban growth are common threats to these environments. Different historical phases of migration and slavery have shaped a multicultural population. Many pre-colonial indigenous populations still inhabit different parts of the country and tell stories of oppression and resistance. Using a feminist, post-colonial lens this unique regional geography course will unfold the beauty of the country's natural environments, uncover the legacy of colonial pasts and the post-colonial present and will discuss current urban growth, social movements and alternative development. The course unravels the roots of social and economic inequality and political challenges linked to corruption and neoliberal ruling. Learning outcomes from this region can be applied to other regional geographies, particular within Latin America.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- (1) Able to apply key concepts that explain processes that shape or have shaped the regional geography of Brazil to other contrasting or comparable regional geographic contexts.
- (2) Expanded knowledge on specific social, cultural, economic and environmental specific characteristics in the region.
- (3) Enhanced critical thinking skills to address regional issues.
- (4) Experience with examining and interpreting a broad range of current development issues through geographical regional analysis.
- (5) Enhanced skills in report preparation and writing.
- (6) Enhanced debating and presentation skills.

*"We acknowledge with respect the Lkwungen-speaking peoples on whose traditional territory the University of Victoria stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSANEC peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day."*

*The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members."*

## Course schedule

| Week | Dates                   | TOPIC and READINGS   |
|------|-------------------------|--|
| 1    | 04.01                   | Introduction to the course: Contextualizing Brazil within the global South and within Latin America  |
| 2    | 08.01.<br>11.01.        | Natural landscapes in Brazil: Forests, wetlands, Savannah, Southern grasslands, coastal mountain chain, among other<br><br>The Amazon and the Pantanal ecosystems (Guest Lecture)                            |
| 3    | 15.01.<br>18.01.        | Colonialism in Brazil: Slavery and Quilombolas<br><br>Post colonialism and cultural legacy   |
| 4    | 22.01.<br>25.01         | Current Brazilian politics: History shaped by colonialism, neopatrimonialism, corruption, oppression, resistance and uprising<br><br>Social movements: uprisings and resistance (Guest Lecture)              |
| 5    | 29.01.<br>01.02.        | 1 <sup>st</sup> Nations in Brazil: Indigenous diversity<br><br>From early encounters and explorations: to migration flows to Brazil  |
| 6    | 05.02<br><b>08.02.</b>  | Uneven regional development: South/Southeast versus North/ Northeast<br><br><b>Midterm 1</b>   |
| 7    | <b>12.-16.02.</b>       | <b>No classes Reading break</b>  |
| 8    | 19.02.<br>22.02.        | Industrial development<br><br>Agro-industrial development  |
| 9    | 26.02.<br>01.03.        | Brazilian Culture: Music, dance and food, Pop, Hip and Graffiti<br><br>Brazilian Carnival and Folklore   |
| 10   | 05.03.<br>08.03.        | Urban challenges: social, economic and environmental<br><br>Urban innovations: Urban planning, PP, Unified Health system and community health workers, public policies for redistribution (e.g. Zero Hunger) |
| 11   | 12.03.<br><b>15.03.</b> | Sao Paulo: a megacity with challenges, Insights Learning from the grassroots and social movements<br><br><b>Midterm 2</b>  |
| 12   | 19.03.<br>22.03.        | Tourism and ecotourism   |
| 13   | 26.03.<br>29.03.        | Student Presentations<br><br>Student Presentations   |
| 14   | <b>02.04.</b><br>05.04. | <b>Holiday No Class</b><br><br>Final discussion  |

## REQUIRED TEXTS

There is no specific course text. Required weekly readings will be uploaded to Course Space.

## MARK ALLOCATION

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Newspaper review             | 10% |
| Research assignment          | 30% |
| Research Presentation        | 10% |
| Midterm exams (20% each)     | 40% |
| Attendance and Participation | 10% |

## ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

**I. Newspaper review covering a specific topic on Brazil (10%):** The student will collect news articles of a current event related to one of the weekly topics and will critically analyze the press coverage. The student will present a brief summary of the findings in class (maximum 10 minutes). A 1 page summary of the critical analysis has to be handed in on the day of the presentation.

**II. Research assignment (30%):** Students will prepare a research paper focused on a specific topic focused on Brazil. On **February 1<sup>st</sup>**, students are required to hand in a **paper proposal** of 1-2 pages, outlining the topic and research question. The outline should cover: Brief context of the research topic. Why is the topic relevant and how are you going to address the topic. **DEADLINE for full paper: April 5<sup>th</sup>**

**III. Research Presentation (10%)**

**IV. Midterm exams (40%)**

**V. Attendance and Participation (10%)**

Students are expected to attend and actively participate in all classes. To achieve full participation marks means that the student engages in the discussion and actively listens, poses questions and provides answers or contributions when possible. This is an easy mark to get, by regularly attending class and coming prepared.

## COURSE POLICIES

### Classroom policies

- Please turn cell phones off during class—ringers, earphones and texting are disruptive and unacceptable.
- Students are expected to do the assigned readings in advance and be prepared to participate in class discussions and in-class activities.

### Written assignments

- Formatting: Coursework must be word-processed, 1.5-spaced, 12-point font size. Assignments should be proofread prior to submission to ensure that they are free of grammatical and spelling

errors and must include a list of all references cited in the text, using the APA citation style. All coursework should include the student's name and student number, the course's code and name, and that of the instructor, in order to avoid loss or improper identification. No need to use a cover page.

- Submission guidelines: All assignments must be submitted on the date specified. And must be done exclusively for this course.
- Late submissions: Work submitted late will be accepted with a 5% daily reduction (including weekend days), up to seven days after the due date. If needed, you may submit your assignment during the weekend as a way to minimize late penalties. In case of an outstanding valid situation you must contact me, preferably in advance. I cannot consider a particular situation unless I know about it, so do not wait until the end of the term to communicate if something did come up. For health reasons, a doctor's certificate must be submitted. No extensions will be granted unless you have communicated with me and your reasons have been deemed valid.

### Plagiarism

It is your responsibility to be familiar with and understand the information on plagiarism. Read carefully the sections "Avenues of Appeal" (p. 17), "Plagiarism and Cheating" (p. 19), and "Evaluation of Student Achievement" (pp. 21-22), in the UVic Calendar. Also see UVic Libraries' plagiarism policy at <http://library.uvic.ca/instruction/cite/plagiarism.html>. Students are reminded that submitting for credit any academic work which has been submitted (or where credit has already been obtained) in another course, is listed among academic offences.

### Accessibility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSD) as soon as possible. For more information see: <http://rcsd.uvic.ca/>. Please notify me immediately if any date proposed for assignments or papers conflicts with dates of special significance in your religion/culture. I will arrange alternative dates to accommodate these individual needs.

### Geography grading system

|         |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |       |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| A+      | A      | A-     | B+     | B      | B-     | C+     | C      | D      | F     |
| 90-100% | 85-89% | 80-84% | 77-79% | 73-76% | 70-72% | 65-69% | 60-64% | 50-59% | 0-49% |

### Course Experience Survey (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.