

## **A History of Social Movements in Brazil**

*“The only revolution truly worthy of such a name is the revolution of peace, the revolution that will transform the man trained for war into the man educated for peace because peace would have been taught. That would, indeed, be the grand mental, and as such, cultural revolution of humanity. There would finally be the so-called new man.” – José Saramago, a Portuguese Writer and Recipient of the 1998 Nobel Prize in Literature*

Spring 2017  
February 11, 18, & 25  
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Instructor: Michael Borger, Political Science & Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Major at Yale College ‘20

### Aim:

In this course, students will examine the progression of different social movements in Brazil, including the decolonization period, the transition from monarchy to democracy, repression under the military dictatorship, student activism, women’s suffrage, the myth of racial democracy, and queer pride. This course will employ both primary and secondary documents of analysis, and will consist of primarily guided socratic seminars.

### Format:

Classes will comprise interactive lectures, socratic seminars, and one brief presentation on the last day. The presentation is elaborated upon below. Occasionally, there will be a short assignment I will ask you to complete before the next class. Though there is technically no penalty for not doing the work nor a grade for the class, I hope your own intellectual curiosity and fascination with the content are sufficient motivation.

### Class Attendance:

The expectation is that you attend all three classes and arrive on-time. Both of these expectations are self-evident, and more importantly, if you miss a class or arrive late, you might risk missing out on something that will genuinely interest you.

### February 11 (Calls for Decolonization, Democracy, & Dictatorship):

- ❖ Lusophone Empire and Colonization:
  - ❖ 1494 Tratado de Tordesilhas (1494 Treaty of Tordesilhas)
  - ❖ Bartolomeu Dias, Vasco de Gama, & Pedro Álvares Cabral
  - ❖ Christian Evangelism & Conversion of Indigenous Groups
  - ❖ 17th Century Bandeirantes (Explorers)
- ❖ Separatist Movements:
  - ❖ The Enlightenment and 1789 Inconfidência Mineira (Minas Gerais Conspiracy)
  - ❖ The Martyrdom of Tiradentes

- ❖ Brazilian Independence and Monarchy:
  - ❖ 1822 Grito do Ipiranga (Shout of the Ipiranga) & Dia do Fico (the Day of the Stay)
  - ❖ 1822 Independence from Portugal
  - ❖ The War of the Triple Alliance/the Paraguayan War
- ❖ Early Republican Period:
  - ❖ 1896-1897 Guerra de Canudos (War of Canudos)
  - ❖ 1904 Revolta da Vacina (Vaccine Revolt)

#### February 18 (Demands for Economic Reform & The Afro-Brazilian Civil Rights Movement):

- ❖ The Economy
  - The Economic Cycles: Pau Brazil, Sugarcane, Gold, & Coffee
  - The Urbanization of the Economy
- ❖ Race, Ethnicity, and Livelihood:
  - The Atlantic Slave Trade
  - The Lei Áurea (the Golden Law) and the Abolition of Slavery
  - The Surge of European Migrants
  - The Creation of Favelas, or Shantytowns
- ❖ The Afro-Brazilian Unity
  - The Birth of Capoeira, Candomblé, and Other Cultural Phenomena
  - Quilombos, specifically the Quilombo of Palmares
- ❖ Modern-day Fights:
  - The Movimento dos Trabalhadores Sem Terra (the Landless Workers' Movement)
  - Democracia Racial (Racial Democracy)
  - University Quotas, Minimum Wage, and Employment

#### February 25 (Social Changes in the Status Quo):

- ❖ 2014 FIFA World Cup and Bus Tariff Protests
- ❖ 2016 Rio Olympic Games
- ❖ Women's Rights
  - Suffrage (5th Constitution of 1934, Citizens' Constitution of 1988)
  - Matrimonial, Property, and Other Rights
  - The Election and Impeachment of Dilma Rousseff
- ❖ Gay Rights
  - Grupo Gay de Bahia (Gay Group of Bahia)
  - Same-sex Marriage
  - Anti-gay Violence
  - São Paulo Gay Pride