

**HIS 265 - Victorian Brazil**  
**Fall 2023**

**‘Victorian Brazil’:  
British-Brazilian cultural connections in the 19<sup>th</sup> century**

M/W 9:00 – 10:15  
Bausch & Lomb room 270  
Prof. Marcia Esteves Agostinho  
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(Office hours by appointment)



*The Brazilian flag in imperial times (1822-1889)*

### **Course Description**

The British and the Brazilian empires were connected in very peculiar ways. Their relationship, which went back to the centuries-old partnership between England and Portugal, became even closer when the Portuguese royal court moved to Brazil in 1808 – as Napoleon invaded the lands of the last British ally in continental Europe. The transatlantic United Kingdom of Portugal, Brazil, and Algarve was born by the end of the Napoleonic wars. A few years later, in 1822, the former colony, and then kingdom, became an independent nation known as the Empire of Brazil. Throughout this time and beyond, the British presence was felt in significant ways – not only in the economic and political spheres but also in different aspects of everyday life in Imperial Brazil, especially in its capital, Rio de Janeiro. The parallels between Britain and Brazil are not limited to similarities in the terms historically used, officially or not, to refer to these countries, such as “United Kingdoms” and “Empires.” It may be curious to learn, for example, that the first historian of Brazil, in the modern disciplinary sense, was the English romanticist intellectual, Robert Southey. Thus, this course focuses on the repercussions in Brazil of three moments of British history: Romanticism, the Catholic question, and the 1851 London Great Exhibition.

### **Course Objectives**

This is an introductory course, and its objective is to offer an alternative window to look at the history of Brazil. By means of lectures and discussions, this course invites the students to think about history as a connected phenomenon. They will have the opportunity to consider how local historical events may have global reach, influencing other peoples in unintended ways.

## Course Information

Attendance: Attendance at all class meetings is **mandatory**. Unexcused absences will lower your grade for the course. Note that participation and attendance count for 25% of the final grade. If you must miss class for an unavoidable reason, please let me know in advance.

Communication: Your UR e-mail will be used for out of class communication.

Accommodations: Please, feel free to talk with me about any concern or situation that affects your ability to complete your academic work successfully. Students requiring classroom accommodations should contact the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

Academic Honesty: All assignments and activities associated with this course must be performed in accordance with the University of Rochester's Academic Honesty Policy. More information is available at: <https://www.rochester.edu/college/honesty/index.html>

## Assignments

### Short Papers:

**Two short papers** (about 2 double-spaced pages), consisting of critical analysis of readings and lectures, giving special attention to in-class discussions. The papers should show the student's ability to develop a critical argument and clearly communicate it.

### Extended paper:

There will be no exam, but an extended paper (about 5 double-spaced pages). In addition to the **writing version**, you will deliver an **oral presentation** on the last day of class. You may choose any theme related to the content of the course, preferably making connections between them.

## Grading

Participation and attendance:	25%
Short papers:	45%
Extended paper:	30%

## Readings

There is no need to buy any book since all readings are **available online**. Please spend some time downloading all the texts listed below in this first week of class. Please keep them in an exclusive folder for our course so you can swiftly find those assigned for each class meeting. Let me know if you need help finding any text. You should read and annotate them **before** class.

Secondary sources:

Bethell, Leslie. "The British Contribution to the Study of Brazil." In: Eakin, Marshall C., and De Almeida, Paulo Roberto, eds. *Envisioning Brazil: A Guide to Brazilian Studies in the United States*. University of Wisconsin Press, 2005. (Chapter 13)

Bethell, Leslie. *Brazil: Essays on History and Politics*. London: University of London Press, 2018.

Fermanis, Porscha. "British Creoles: Nationhood, Identity, and Romantic Geopolitics in Robert Southey's History of Brazil." *The Review of English Studies* 71, no. 299 (2020): 307-327.

Graham, Richard. *Britain and the Onset of Modernization in Brazil, 1850-1914*. Vol. 4. Cambridge, GBR: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Norman, E. R. *Anti-Catholicism in Victorian England*. 1st ed. Vol. 36. Florence: Routledge, 1968.

#### Primary sources:

"Brazil and British Trade: colonization," *The British and American Mail* (Rio de Janeiro), November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1877: 2. <http://memoria.bn.br/DocReader/385140/27>

"The Late Brazilian Crisis," *The Rio News* (Rio de Janeiro), 09/15/1879:1. <http://memoria.bn.br/DocReader/349070/68>

Gammon, Samuel R. *The Evangelical Invasion of Brazil: or, A Half Century of Evangelical Missions in the Land of the Southern Cross*. Richmond: Presbyterian Committee of Publication, 1910.

Green, James N., Langland, Victoria, and Moritz Schwarcz, Lilia, eds. *The Brazil Reader: History, Culture, Politics*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2019.

Madden, Lionel. *Robert Southey: The Critical Heritage*. Robert Southey. 1st ed. London: Routledge, 1972. (p.148-170)

*Official catalogue of the Great exhibition of the works of industry of all nations, 1851*. London: Spicer brothers, 1851. p.208.

Southey, Robert. *History of Brazil*. volumes 1, 2, and 3. London: Longman, Hurst, Rees, and Orme, 1810, 1817, 1819.

### **Schedule**

*This is a tentative schedule of class meetings. It may be adjusted as needed.*

#### **Introduction**

Aug 30 – What do we mean by “Victorian Brazil”?

Sep 06 – “Brazil and Latin America,” Chapter 1, *Brazil: Essays on History and Politics*. (p.19-37)

Sep 11 – “Brazil and Latin America,” Chapter 1, *Brazil: Essays on History and Politics*. (p.37-53)

Sep 13 – “The British Contribution to the Study of Brazil.” Chapter 13, *Envisioning Brazil: A Guide to Brazilian Studies in the United States*. (p.347-374)

### **Unit 1. Brazil in the context of the Victorian Age**

Sep 18 – “Britain and Brazil (1808–1914),” Chapter 2, *Brazil: Essays on History and Politics*. (p.57-71)

Sep 20 – “Britain and Brazil (1808–1914),” Chapter 2, *Brazil: Essays on History and Politics*. (p.71-92)

Sep 25 – “Treaty between Portugal and Great Britain,” *The Brazil Reader: History, Culture, Politics*. (p.140-144)

### **Unit 2. Brazil in the Eyes of Romantic Britain**

Sep 27 – Southey, Robert. *History of Brazil*. London: Longman, Hurst, Rees, and Orme, 1810. (Selected pages)

Oct 02 – Fermanis, Porscha. "British Creoles: Nationhood, Identity, and Romantic Geopolitics in Robert Southey's History of Brazil." *The Review of English Studies* 71, no. 299 (2020): 307-327.

Oct 04 – “History of Brazil,” *Robert Southey: The Critical Heritage*. (p.148-170)

Oct 09 – “From the Journal of Maria Graham,” *The Brazil Reader: History, Culture, Politics*. (p.176-180)

Oct 11 – No Class. First paper due by 11:59 PM (by e-mail).

### **Unit 3. English anti-Catholicism and Protestantism in Brazil**

Oct 18 – “Speech of the Duke of York against Catholic claims, 1825,” Chapter 6, *Anti-Catholicism in Victorian England*. (p.125-128)

and

Southey, Robert. *History of Brazil*. Vol. III, London, 1819. (p.878)

Oct 23 – “The Anti-Catholic Tradition,” Chapter 1, *Anti-Catholicism in Victorian England*. (p.13-22)

Oct 25 – “Individual Salvation,” Chapter 11, *Britain and the Onset of Modernization in Brazil, 1850-1914*. (p.277-297)

Oct 30 – “The People,” Chapter 2, *The Evangelical Invasion of Brazil*. (p.32-48)

Nov 01 – “The Nation’s Need – Brazil as a Mission Field,” Chapter 4, *The Evangelical Invasion of Brazil*. (p.68-85)

#### **Unit 4. The 1851 Great Exhibition and new notions of progress**

Nov 06 – “Contrasting societies: Britain and Brazil,” Introduction, *Britain and the Onset of Modernization in Brazil, 1850-1914*. (p.11-22)

and

*Official catalogue of the Great exhibition of the works of industry of all nations, 1851*. London: Spicer brothers, 1851. (p.208)

Nov 08 – “Progress and Spencer,” Chapter 9, *Britain and the Onset of Modernization in Brazil, 1850-1914*. (p.232-251)

Nov 13 – “Brazil and British Trade: colonization,” *The British and American Mail* (Rio de Janeiro), November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1877: 2. <http://memoria.bn.br/DocReader/385140/27>

Nov 15 – Revision of past units and proposals for extended paper. **Second paper due by 11:59 PM** (by e-mail).

#### **Unit 5. From a Romantic to a Liberal view of Brazil**

Nov 20 – Southey, Robert. *History of Brazil*. Vol. III, London, 1819. (p.879)

and

“The Late Brazilian Crisis,” *The Rio News* (Rio de Janeiro), 09/15/1879:1. <http://memoria.bn.br/DocReader/349070/68>

Nov 22 – No class. Thanksgiving. Remember that **extended paper is due on December 13**.

Nov 27 – “Middle-class Britain and the Brazilian liberals,” Chapter 10, *Britain and the Onset of Modernization in Brazil, 1850-1914*. (p.252-276)

#### **Unit 6. British Engineering and Brazilian Modernity**

The students will perform an exploratory task of **bibliographical research** and then collectively select the readings for this last unit. You are supposed to look for both primary and secondary sources. Note that participation, in addition to attendance, counts for 25% of your grade.

Nov 29 – Bibliographical research in class (secondary sources).

Dec 04 – Bibliographical research in class (primary sources).

Dec 06 – In-group selection of relevant readings.

Dec 11 – Discussion of selected readings.

Dec 13 – Extended paper presentations. **Extended paper due by 11:59 PM** (by e-mail).

End of Semester