

Political Science/Latino Studies 388: LATINO POLITICS
Spring 2013
M/W 2-3:15pm
MIT 195

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The current population size and projected growth trajectory have made Latinos a favored topic among politicians, interest groups and mass media. What do we really know about the politics, *not the punditry*, associated with the diverse and expanding Latino population? How are Latinos incorporated into American political life? This class is an in-depth examination of Latino politics in the United States. We begin with demographic analysis identifying the commonality and variation among Latinos, including national origin, nativity, age and geographic concentration. The focus then turns to the interplay between Latino political incorporation and political institutional responses. This will include the Chicano movement, immigration (and other Latino specific) policies, public opinion, voting behavior and representation.

Questions that will consistently arise in lectures, discussions, readings and other assignments are: What difference does it make to be of Latino descent in the United States? How do non-Latinos and political institutions respond to Latinos? What effect does representation have on Latinos? How and why are Latinos distinctive in their political attitudes and behaviors?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students can expect to learn the following by the end of this course:

- 1) Identify demographic, historic and social factors distinctive to the Latino American population.
- 2) Define and critically evaluate concepts relevant to the study of minority group representation.
- 3) Apply factual knowledge about history, social and political institutions with respect to the Latino population to facilitate a broader understanding of American politics.
- 4) Identify, critique and apply major academic theses and debates regarding minority politics and policy in the United States.

REQUIRED READINGS:

All assigned readings are required. Articles are available via the UWM library. Please see me if you need help locating an assigned reading.

(GS) Garcia, F. Chris and Gabriel R. Sanchez. 2008. *Hispanics and the U.S. Political System: Moving into the Mainstream*. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson/Prentice Hall.

(ELM) Espino, Rodolfo, David L. Leal, and Kenneth J. Meier. 2007. *Latino Politics: Identity, Mobilization and Representation*. Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press.

(Hero) Rodney Hero. 1992. *Latinos and The Political System: Two-Tiered Pluralism*. Philadelphia: Temple Press.

In addition to these texts, we will be reading a number of articles and reports (available on D2L),

Course Requirements

Participation and Discussion (5%)

Each class meeting will involve in-class discussion of assigned readings. The discussions are an opportunity for you to clarify uncertainties and synthesize your understanding of concepts and ideas presented in the lectures and readings. The discussions also provide a forum in which to examine critically concepts and policy issues that are relevant to urban politics. Discussions thus present important learning opportunities in the class. You will of course need to be present to participate in discussion, but beyond this you will be evaluated for your ability to: (a) add content and insight into the discussion, and (b) pose relevant questions that contribute to the discussion.

Reaction Essays(20%):

Reaction essays are brief essays (300 words) in which you respond to one or more assigned readings. Your essays should include a succinct but detailed summary of the argument(s) to which you are responding and develop your reaction, which may be one of skepticism, all out agreement or disagreement, epiphany, or whole-hearted endorsement. Regardless, your essay should exhibit a line of reflective thought in which you explain the logic and rationale that supports your reaction to the reading(s).

Reaction essays must be typed in 12 point font and free of grammatical and spelling errors. The essays are due at 10am on the day of class. You are required to complete eight (8) essays and will have ten (10) opportunities to write them, and post them to the D2L dropbox. Lastly, ***I will not accept any reaction essays that are submitted late.***

Quizzes/Exams (55%):

Quiz 1 is scheduled for **Week 5** and will focus on the material covered in modules 1-4 of the course. Quiz 2 is scheduled for **Week 12**, and will cover material from modules 5-9. Each quiz will constitute 15% of your grade. The Final Exam will cover material from the whole course. This exam is scheduled during **Finals Week**, and constitutes 25% of your grade. Each quiz/exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions.

Final Paper and Presentation: *Latinos and the 2012 Election* (20%)

Your final paper for this class will employ social science methods to explore the previously approved research topic associated with Latinos in the 2012 presidential election. The final paper will have several essential components: 1) Introduction: articulates the specific research question and describes how the paper is organized; 2) Literature Review: Situates the research question within the contemporary academic research with a focus on theoretical grounding, substantive findings, conceptual measures and gaps in the literature; 3) Hypothesis and Data: State hypothesis and its connection to the theoretical and substantive topics in the literature review, outline logic for expected findings, identify and describe data in detail; 4) Findings: Describe data analysis techniques and report results, focus is placed on interpreting the findings in terms of Latino politics; 5) Discussion and Conclusion: Address the knowledge gained from the study and how it comports or disagrees with prior studies. Discuss shortcomings of the study and how they might be improved in a future iteration; 6) Bibliography: List a “References” section at the end of the paper using the *American Political Science Review* citation format.

Information on the individual components and presentation requirements will be provided in class.

Grade distribution:

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following distribution:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-
100-94%	93-90%	89-88%	87-82%	81-80%	79-78%	77-72%	71-70%	69-68%	67-62%	61-60%

Students are encouraged to keep track of their progress in the course and consult with me in person should they have questions or concerns about their performance. Please note I will not discuss grades via email or telephone.

Other Notes

Email: I prefer to meet during office hours than respond via email. If you do email me, please account for a 24-hour grace period on weekdays and 48-hour grace period on weekends for responding to emails. If it is critical that I respond sooner, please note that in the subject line.

Classroom Etiquette: Arrive at class on time! and turn off all electronic devices (laptops and electronic dictionaries, excluded). Cell phones, iPhones, iPods, BlackBerry devices and other technologies are to be stowed away and turned off before class. Laptop computers can be used in class, but only for taking notes.

Academic Dishonesty: Do not cheat or plagiarize another's work! This applies to essays and exams. If you do, you will receive a zero for that assignment with no possibility of making that up.

Course Schedule
(Subject to Change – Consult D2L)

Module 1: Latinos in Political Science Research

- [W] Jan 23: Introductions and Course overview
- [M] Jan 28
Reaction Paper #1 Due by 10am
Read: GS: Intro, 1 and 3; Hero: 1
- [W] Jan 30
Read: ELM: Foreword, p.17-27 and 267-290.

Module 2: Historical Antecedents and Panethnic Identity

- [M] Feb 4
Reaction Paper #2 Due by 10am
Read: GS:2, Hero 2, ELM: p.44-62
- [W] Feb 6
Read: Schmidt et al. 2000. “Latino Identities: Social Diversity and U.S. Politics.”
PS: Political Science and Politics 33:563-67.

Module 3: Americanism and Acculturation

- [M] Feb 11
Reaction Paper #3 Due by 10am
Read: R. de la Garza, A. Falcon, and F.C.Garcia. 1996. “Will The Real Americans Please Stand Up: Anglo and Mexican American Support of Core American Political Values.” *American Journal of Political Science* 40:2, p.335-351.
- [W] Feb 13
Read: (1) D. Leal. 2003. “The Multicultural Military: Military Service and the Acculturation of Latinos and Anglos.” *Armed Forces & Society*, 29: 183-226.
(2) M. Michelson. 2003. “The Corrosive Effect of Acculturation: How Mexican Americans Lose Political Trust.” *Social Science Quarterly* 84 :4, p.918-933.

Module 4: Immigration Politics and the Huntington Debate

- [M] Feb18
Reaction Paper #4 Due by 10am
Read: S.P. Huntington. 2004. “The Hispanic Challenge” in *Foreign Policy* March/April.

[W] Feb 20

(1) G.M.Segura. 2005. "Who Are We" *Perspectives on Politics*. 4: 277-278.

(2) J. Citrin, A. Lerman, M. Murakami and K. Pearson. 2007. "Testing Huntington: Is Hispanic Immigration a Threat to American Identity?" *Perspectives on Politics*. 5:1, p.31-48.

Quiz #1: Monday, Feb 25

Module 5: Institutions and Rules

[W] Feb 27

Read: Hero 5, 6 and 11

[M] Mar 4:

Read: GS: 9,10,11

Module 6: The Color of Representation

[W] Mar 6:

Reaction Paper # 5 Due by 10am

(1) Kerr and Miller (1997) "Latino Representation, It's Direct and Indirect" *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 41, No. 3

(2) R. Hero and R. Preuhs. 2007. "Descriptive Representation as a Means to Mitigate Backlash." *Political Research Quarterly*. 60:2, 277-292.

(3) A.Pantoja and G.M.Segura. 2003. "Does Ethnicity Matter? Descriptive Representation in Legislatures and Political Alienation Among Latinos" *Social Science Quarterly* 84:2, 441-460.

Module 7: Public Opinion

[M] Mar 11:

Reaction Paper #6 Due by 10am

GS: Ch 5 and 12

[W] Mar 13: ELM:p27-43; Hero Ch.9

March 18-22: Spring Break!

Module 8: Party, Ideology and Policy

- [M] Mar 25:
Reaction Paper #6 Due by 10am
 Read: R. M. Alvarez and L.Garcia Bedolla. 2003. "The Foundations of Latino Voter Partisanship: Evidence from the 2000 Election." *Journal of Politics*. 65:1, p.31-49.
- [W] Mar 27: ONLINE Class/Assignment - TBA.
 Read: R. de la Garza and J. Cortina. 2007. " Are Latinos Republicans But Just Don't Know It?: The Latino Vote in the 2000 and 2004 Presidential Elections." *American Politics Research* 35: 202-223.

Module 9: Participation and Vote Choice

- [M] Apr 1:
Reaction Paper #7 Due by 10am
 Read GS: Ch 6, 7 8
- [W] Apr 3:
 Read: (1) M.Barreto. 2007. "'Si Se Puede' Candidates and the Mobilization of Latino Voters." *American Political Science Review*. 101:
 (2) N. Masuoka. 2008. "Defining the Group: Latino Identity and Political Participation." *American Politics Research*. 2008 36: 33-61.

Quiz #2: Monday, April 8

- [W] April 10: NO CLASS – Work on Papers!

Module 10: Campaigns and "Amigo" Politics

- [M] April 15:
Reaction Paper #8 Due by 10am
 Read: (1) Martinez, Lisa. 2005. "Yes We Can: Latino Participation in Unconventional Politics." *Social Forces*.
 (2) Barreto, M. et al.2009. "Solidaridad and Politics by Other Means: Latino Participation in the 2006 Immigration Protest Rallies". *Urban Affairs Review*.
- [W] April 17:
 Read: (1) A. Pantoja, GM Segura and R Ramirez. 2001. "Citizens by Choice, Voters by Necessity: Patterns in Political Mobilization by Naturalized Latinos." *Political Research Quarterly*
 (2) D. Leal and L.R. Fraga. 2004. "Playing the 'Latino Card': Race, Ethnicity, and National Party Politics." *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race*, v1: 297-317.

Module 11: Immigration Politics: Targets Become Participants

[M] April 22:
Reaction Paper #9 Due by 10am
Read: Barreto, M. 2005. "Latino Immigrants at the Polls: Foreign-born Voter Turnout in the 2002 Election." *Political Research Quarterly* (2005)

[W] April 24:
Read: S. K. Ramakrishnan and T. J. Espenshade. 2001. "Immigrant Incorporation and Political Participation in the United States." *International Migration Review* 35:3 , 870-909.

Module 12: Coalition Formation and Prospects

[M] April 29:
Reaction Paper #10 Due by 10am
Read:GS 13, ELM 142-176.
Guest Speaker: TBA

[W] May 1:
Read: (1) G. Sanchez. 2008. "Latino Group Consciousness and Perceptions of Commonality with African Americans" *Social Science Quarterly*.
(2) K. Kaufmann. 2003. "Cracks in the Rainbow: Group Commonality as a Basis for Latino and African-American Political Coalitions" *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol. 56, No. 2, 199-210.

May 6-8: Paper Presentations

Final Exam: Tuesday, May 14th, 12:30-2:30pm.