

LATINOS IN U.S. POLITICS
Political Science 124B/CLS 151
TuTh 2:00 – 3:20 p.m., SSL 145
Winter 2007

Chc/Lat 151
Winter '07

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This course looks at the political issues facing the largest Latina/o groups in the U.S.—Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, and Central Americans—by examining their histories, voting behavior, nonelectoral participation and policy issues. It begins with the historical experiences of all the groups, comparing the forces behind each group's migration and how those processes have affected their integration into politics. It then turns to issues of participation, with an analysis of Latino electoral participation and community activism, including issues of gender. Finally, we look at Latino issues at the national, state and local levels, including the Voting Rights Act, formal representation, education, affirmative action, and language policy.

Course Requirements

1. Class Participation – 25%

- Class participation includes your class attendance and your participation in weekly discussions. This includes coming to discussion sessions prepared and ready to discuss the substantive issues raised in that week's readings.
- Participation also includes your engagement and involvement in the in class exercise during week 9.

2. Midterm – 35%

- The midterm will be given **in class on Thursday, February 8th**. It will consist of a few short essay questions and one long essay. The midterm will include material from the lectures, readings and class discussions.

3. Final – 40%

- The final will be a take home exam. You will receive it on the last day of class, **Thursday, March 15th**, and will be due on **Wednesday, March 21st**. Your final paper will be 8-10 pages long and you will be asked answer one question.

Readings

One reader is required for this course. It is available from Mozena publishing and may be purchased in class during the first two class sessions. You may also call Mozena at (800) 444-TEXT and order the reader over the phone. The reader also will be available on reserve in Langson Library.

Expectations

Etiquette

We will interact with each other quite a lot in this class, so it is especially important that we treat each other with consideration and respect. Listen, do your best to *hear*; respect others' right to state an opinion; remember that we're all working our way toward judgments based on those opinions; remember that we all come to this material with differing cultural backgrounds. Perhaps the motto of Marquette University would work for us: *cura personalis* (care for the person).

Academic Honesty

Do your own work. If you quote, paraphrase, or summarize the work of others, cite that work appropriately. If you plagiarize the work of another, you will fail that assignment. If you plagiarize twice, you will fail this course and you will be referred to the proper authorities for disciplinary action (including, frequently, expulsion).

Accommodation for differing ability

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify the instructor during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course. Late notification may cause the requested accommodations to be unavailable. All accommodations must be coordinated through the Disability Services Center. Information on available services may be found at: <http://www.disability.uci.edu/index.html>; or by phone by calling (949) 824-7494.

Course Outline

Week 1

- 1/9 Introduction
- 1/11 What do we mean by "Latino"? The Social Construction of Race
 Readings: Rodríguez, Clara. "Latinos in the U.S. Race Structure," and "The Idea of Race," in *Changing Race: Latinos, the Census, and the History of Ethnicity in the United States* (New York: New York University Press, 2000).
 Menchaca, Martha. "Racial Foundations," in *Recovering History, Constructing Race: the Indian, Black and White Roots of Mexican Americans* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2001).

Week 2

- 1/16 Latino Demographics and What We Know about Latino Political Participation
 Readings: Pew Hispanic Center, "Hispanics: A People in Motion." Report. Available online at <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/40.pdf>
 Suro, Roberto, Richard Fry, and Jeffrey Passel, "Hispanics and the 2004 Election: Population, Electorate, and Voters." (Washington, DC: Pew Hispanic Center, 2005). Available online at <http://pewhispanic.org/reports/report.php?ReportID=48>

Fraga, Luis R., John A. García, Rodney E. Hero, Michael Jones-Correa, Valerie Martínez Ebers, and Gary Segura. 2006. "Su Casa es Nuestra Casa: Latino Politics Research and the Development of American Political Science." *American Political Science Review* 100 (2006): 515-521.

1/18 Mexican American History, 1848-1950
 Readings: Ronald Takaki, "Foreigners in their native Land: Manifest Destiny in the Southwest" and "El Norte: the Borderland of Chicano America" in *A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America* (Boston: Back Bay Books, 1993).

Week 3

1/23 Mexican American History 1848-1950, cont.

1/25 Puerto Rican and Cuban History: 1880-1960
 Readings: González, Juan, "Puerto Ricans: Citizens Yet Foreigners," in *Harvest of Empire: a History of Latinos in America* (New York: Viking, 2000).
 María Cristina García, "The Evolution of Cuban Exile Politics," in *Havana USA: Cuban Exiles and Cuban Americans in South Florida, 1959-1994* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996).

Week 4

1/30 Salvadoran and Guatemalan Migration to the United States
 Readings: Hamilton, Nora and Norma Stoltz Chinchilla, "Introduction," and "Origins and Patterns of Central American Migration," in *Seeking Community in a Global City: Guatemalans and Salvadorans in Los Angeles* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2001).
 Coutin, Susan Bibler, "Negotiating Identities," in *Legalizing Moves: Salvadoran Immigrants' Struggle for U.S. Residency* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2003).

2/1 Mexican American Politics and the Chicano Movement
 Readings: Gutiérrez, José Angel, "Preface" and "Introduction," in *The Making of a Chicano Militant: Lessons from Cristal*, (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1998).

Week 5

2/6 The Puerto Rican Movement and Cuban Exile Politics
 Readings: Torres, Andrés, "Introduction: Political Radicalism in the Diaspora – The Puerto Rican Experience," in Andrés Torres and José E. Velázquez, eds., *The Puerto Rican Movement: Voices from the Diaspora* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1998).

2/8 ***Midterm Exam***

Week 6

2/13 The Central American Solidarity Movement
 Readings: Perla, Hector, "Challenging Reagan: Central American Agency in the Creation of the U.S.-Central American Peace and Solidarity Movement." Unpublished manuscript, 2006.

2/15 Gender, Political Participation and Community Organizing
 Readings: Hardy-Fanta, Carol, "Latina Women and Politics in Boston: *Somos La Vida, La*

Fuerza, La Mujer," in *Pursuing Power: Latinos and the Political System* (South Bend, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1997).

García Bedolla, Lisa. "Community Problems, Collective Solutions: Latinos and Nonelectoral Participation," in *Fluid Borders: Latino Power, Identity, and Politics in Los Angeles* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005).

Week 7

2/20 & 2/22

Readings:

National-level issues – Voting and the Voting Rights Act

de la Garza, Rodolfo and Louis DeSipio, "Save the Baby, Change the Bathwater, and Scrub the Tub: Latino Electoral Participation after Twenty Years of Voting Rights Act Coverage," in *Pursuing Power*

Jones-Correa, Michael, "Language Provisions under the Voting Rights Act: How Effective Are They?" *Social Science Quarterly* 86 (2005): 549-564.

Barreto, Matt, Gary Segura, and Nathan Woods, "The Mobilizing Effect of Majority-Minority Districts on Latino Turnout," *American Political Science Review* 98 (2004): 65-75.

Week 8

2/27 & 3/1

Readings:

Latinos and Congressional Representation

Hero, Rodney and Caroline Tolbert, "Latinos and Substantive Representation in the U.S. House of Representatives: Direct, Indirect or Nonexistent?" *American Journal of Political Science* 39 (1995): 640-652.

Kerr, Brinck and Will Miller, "Latino Representation, It's Direct and Indirect," *American Journal of Political Science* 41: 1066-1071.

Dovi, Suzanne, "Preferable Descriptive Representatives: Will Just Any Woman, Black, or Latino Do?" *American Political Science Review* 96 (2002): 729-743.

Week 9

3/6

Readings:

Latino Political Influence in State and Local Government – **in class exercise**

Regalado, Jaime. "The Political Incorporation of LA's Communities of Color," in *Pursuing Power*

Márquez, Ben. "The Industrial Areas Foundation and the Mexican-American Community in Texas," in *Pursuing Power*

Moreno, Dario. "The Cuban Model: Political Empowerment in Miami," in *Pursuing Power*

3/8

*****No Class*****

Week 10

3/13

Readings:

Policy Issues – Education, Affirmative Action and Language Policy

García, F. Chris, "Outputs from the Political System," in *Pursuing Power*

Fraga, Luis, et al. "Hispanic Americans and Educational Policy: Limits to Equal Access," in *Pursuing Power*

Schmidt, Ron, "Latinos and Language Policy: The Politics of Culture," in *Pursuing Power*

García, F. Chris, "Latinos and the Affirmative Action Debate" and "Outcomes, Prospects, and Conclusions," in *Pursuing Power*

3/15

Conclusions

*****Final Exam Question Handed Out in Class*****